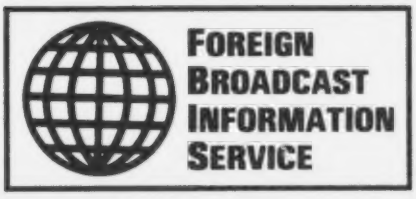

Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-068 *9 April 1990*

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Regional Communist Parties Issue 'Open Letter'

PA0704010890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] Several communist parties of Latin America and the Caribbean have called for the establishment of a large-scale alliance for democracy and self-determination inspired by Latin American nationalism.

Among its objectives, this broad alliance would include a firm defense of socialist Cuba, firm solidarity with the remaining sectors of the Sandinist people's revolution, and most particularly, solidarity with the struggle of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador and the democratic and revolutionary forces of other countries.

The communist parties of Costa Rica, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Argentina arrived at this conclusion after analyzing the current world situation, particularly the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The proposal is made in an open letter released today, which is addressed to the "revolutionary and progressive forces" of the continent. It is signed by the parties' representatives Humberto Vargas Carbonnel, Rigoberto Padilla Rush, Narciso Isa Conde, Jorge Shafik Handal, and Patricio Echegaray, respectively.

The organizations emphasize that, despite the "profound, prolonged, and dramatic crisis" with which the U.S. "system of domination" is afflicted, that powerful country is "puffed up with pride" and is taking advantage of the fact that its serious crisis "currently coexists with the crisis being faced by certain socialist models."

"We are facing two great crises: On the one hand, there is the worldwide crisis of the capitalist system, the existence of which is the cause of the acute and dramatic problems that affect the great majority of human beings.

"On the other hand, there is the acute crisis of the bureaucratized socialist models that became highly authoritarian and repressive, thereby distancing themselves from the original ideal in which social justice is merged with democracy to guarantee a continuous process of self-improvement," the parties state.

Although the parties admit that perestroyka and other processes emerged as a response to the need to renovate socialism, they say that ideological and other defects have led those processes into costly deviations and weaknesses.

They maintain that these weaknesses "are manifested in new crises, deviations, and defects that have led to a worrisome blunting of anti-imperialism and of revolutionary positions in more than a few of those forces."

The parties add that "in line with these extreme positions, those processes go as far as to deny the existence of imperialism," which leads the organizations signing the document to express their "categorical" objection to that thinking and that attitude.

After expressing their opposition to dogmatism, unilateral actions, and blind adherence to old formulas, the communist organizations state that democratization should not be "limited to Eastern Europe and should not take the form of copying models of representative democracy that are experiencing crises in the Western world and have begun to reveal their limitations."

They also state their conviction that the renovation and democratization that they realize is necessary within socialism should not be diverted along the path of "capitalist privatization that has produced so much injustice and evil."

"We do not believe that internationalism and solidarity should be replaced by national egotism or by temporization with or appeasement of imperialism," the document states.

It then adds: "...we are deeply convinced that the erosion of internationalism in the USSR is bolstering the counterrevolutionary chauvinism that threatens to weaken and even disintegrate that multinational state. A retreat from anti-imperialism and internationalism has reverted against the very unity of the USSR."

However, "that firm conviction does not reduce our positive assessment of efforts by the USSR and other countries to achieve interstate agreements with the large capitalist countries to avoid the great tragedies that threaten humanity's existence," the letter states.

They also say: "We understand the prevailing situation in Europe, which has been caused by the threatening world problems related to world peace and the dramatic ecological imbalance provoked by the industrial civilization." They add that, nevertheless, humanism, peace, and self-determination should not be limited to the Northern Hemisphere countries or Europe, disregarding the two-thirds of the world's inhabitants who live in the Third World.

They point out that the center of revolutionary evolution has moved to the Third World since the 1950's, and this is most clearly seen in Latin America.

The document released by the five Communist parties, which could be the first step toward a strong and consistent offensive for the unity of Latin American revolutionaries, stresses that Latin American and Caribbean countries stand no chance for development, democracy, and sovereignty "within imperialist dominance."

Because of this, "our countries require deeply democratic revolutions which permit the participation of and can give power to all the sectors capable of contributing to development with social justice and lay the groundwork for socialism as well," they state.

Bearing in mind that "the revolutionary changes of course in the Third World, and particularly in Latin America, are capable of affecting and even altering and destabilizing the imperialist system," the five parties regard it as necessary to underline pluralism and "the role that Christians play within this plurality by linking the humanist meaning of Christianity with the struggle to resolve the painful social, political, and economic reality of the Latin American masses."

Through the unusual revolutionary potential in this continent, "our overall change of course and renovation can yield fruit only if we maintain a united and anti-imperialist fighting stance and a close relationship between a people's revolution and a participatory, integrated revolution."

"Within the Third World, the new revolutionary hopes must be injected into this convulsed Latin American continent."

"In Latin America, the objectives of liberation and transformation are integrated into an inexhaustible social, political, religious, and ideological plurality that gathers workers, peasants, proletarians, poor people, employees, teachers, students, intellectuals, Christians, and entrepreneurs under the banner of the broadest national, popular, and democratic interests."

For this reason, in an open letter addressed to "the revolutionary and progressive forces in Latin America and the Caribbean," the communist parties of Costa Rica, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Argentina reach the conclusion that "...it is essential to form a great alliance for democracy and self-determination inspired by the Latin Americanism that includes a firm defense of socialist Cuba, a staunch solidarity with the reserves of the Sandinist people's revolution, and, particularly, solidarity with the FMLN's struggle and the democratic and revolutionary forces of other countries."

Cuba

Further Events, Reaction Relating to TV Marti

Protest at Interparliamentary Union

FL0604132190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Cuba has denounced the television broadcasts which began a week ago by the United States against our country, to the 83d Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union, which has completed its third day of work in Nicosia, Cyprus. The head of the Cuban delegation, Severo Aguirre, stressed that Washington's action is a violation of Cuban sovereignty and a mockery of the international conventions on telecommunications. Aguirre asked for support for the demand that the United States put an end to the anti-Cuban television project.

Mexican, Soviet Opposition Noted

FL0704141290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] The Permanent Commission of the Mexican National Congress has unanimously approved a document which considers the U.S. tele-aggression on Cuba as a unilateral action which is outside international conventions and agreements regulating that field. 't also stated that this grave aggression could be the beginning of an electronic war with messages and slogans that could harm Cuba's sovereignty and independence.

It was also reported that Yan Burlay, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Directorate for Latin America, characterized the anti-Cuban television as a violation of international law and interference in Cuba's internal affairs. He noted that this hostile action could have a negative influence in the current political situation in Latin America and the entire world.

'Any Enemy Action' To Be Repelled

FL0704145590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1401 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Combatants from a small anti-aircraft defense unit, who are close to a place where equipment for the radioelectronic struggle is located in the western region, have reiterated their determination of not allowing the enemy to attempt any action here. During a visit to the unit, operators and technicians of self-propelled anti-aircraft installations and rocket complexes showed their high combative readiness. They asserted that, if Yankees get up early, Cuban artillerymen do not sleep and that their weapons are on guard.

First Lieutenant Leornardo Bienes, chief of the small western unit, said the personnel is well prepared to repel any enemy action and, aware of its historic mission, is more alert than ever. Nobody is overtaken by fear here, said Private Aurelio Gutierrez, secretary general of the Union of Young Communists grass roots committee. Non-Commissioned Officer Agustin Miranda, chief of a rocket group, noted the troops' high combative, morale, and political spirit.

Project Called 'Electronic Giron'

FL0704175590

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 7 April carries a recorded program entitled "TV Marti: An Electronic Giron." The program is introduced by an off-camera narrator who mentions efforts made by the United States in the past to transmit television and radio broadcasts "with destabilization purposes." While the screen shows video clips of Radio Marti studios, the narrator notes that Radio Marti began operating on May 1985. He asserts that, in contrast with other counterrevolutionary radio stations, "the new radio aggression was financed and operated by the U.S. Government. This experience would be the base for everything that would come later in an anti-Cuban television broadcast."

The narrator later says: "The project is the logical continuation of the way the White House has used the broadcast media in an attempt to destroy the Cuban revolution." The narrator says TV Marti's technical feasibility and legality were questioned by many specialists. He adds that others were concerned over Cuba's reaction and the way this would affect the United States. Video clips of Cuban President Fidel Castro speaking against TV Marti are shown.

The narrator cites a Cuban Foreign Ministry statement that indicates the TV Marti signal was jammed 10 minutes after it started and that Cuba would prevent any new attempt to occupy the radioelectric specter in the future.

As Cuban technicians are seen working with various types of electronic equipment, the narrator states that Cuba had to make new defensive efforts an an "unexplored battlefield."

Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rabasa explains that: "From the technical viewpoint, our country did not have information on the anti-Cuban station concept. It was necessary to make an entire assessment of on which bands, with what power, and with what means the aggressive television was going to broadcast. Our technicians and engineers had to work hard in figuring out how this transmission was going to take place."

Engineer Carlos Martinez, identified by caption as director of radioelectric frequencies, says universities teach how to run a television service but not how to jam television signals. He notes no textbooks on the subject are available. However, he adds, their technicians got so involved in the project that they obtained fantastic results. He stresses that all the technology they have developed can be used for peaceful purposes.

More shots of people working with electronic equipment are seen and unidentified workers, some wearing military fatigues, comment on the efforts made to counteract the "aggressive television station" and how worthwhile they have been. One unidentified man, who says he works monitoring U.S. television and fm frequencies, adds that "the electronic war is like ideological struggle, it takes place every day. It is a war with no boundaries." Men in military uniform are seen getting out of bed when their tv monitor shows the TV Marti logo and music. One man runs and activates a device and another one calls announcing that the signal has been jammed.

Engineer Martinez notes that all workers have provided extraordinary support to their efforts to jam TV Marti. He mentions that, at one point, workers at a factory had to work two straight days to meet a deadline to produce a particular piece of equipment that was needed.

The narrator says helicopters are used to reinforce the signal interference. He states that "thanks to the ability of Cuban technicians, the helicopters are turned into true blocking towers." The narrator notes that "after the first days, the enemy signal has not been able to survive more than 10 minutes. He quotes international experts as saying that TV Marti may be the shortest-lived station on the air in history.

The narrator refutes Washington's idea that TV Marti is needed to provide Cubans with a free flow of information by saying that "anyone can confirm that information on multiple subjects from many countries flows freely on Cuban screens." Percentages and figures of foreign programming shown on Cuban television are shown. The narrator cites remarks made by U.S. officials saying that the true goal of TV Marti is "to encourage internal currents for change which would ultimately lead to the end of the Castro regime" and that there is a possibility of the United States conducting surgical aerial hits on Cuban teleaggression jamming installations. These plans, he says, led Cuba to reinforce its readiness to deal with any possibility. Soldiers are seen conducting military exercises. Various types of military equipment are seen, including armored vehicles and antiaircraft artillery. Several soldiers comment on their willingness and readiness to reject any U.S. attack on their transmitters.

The 24-minute program ends with the narrator saying: "Washington's obstinacy has crashed on an insurmountable barrier; the patriotism, courage, and capability of the Cuban people. If the White House persists in its escalation, it will continue reliving the defeat of an electronic Giron. As GRANMA newspaper's editorial states, it is evident today that initially they were literally beaten. Cuba had already warned about it publicly. Once the aggression took place, it would not remain with its arms crossed. The United States is responsible for the consequences which could result from the insistence in this crisis. In its calculations, it should not forget that in each case, the island has thought out its response. They are sovereign options that make proud the island."

Pro-Cuban Demonstration in New York Noted

FL0704135090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Today in New York over 20 organizations of various social sectors will stage a demonstration in support of Cuba. This was reported to PRENSA LATINA by a member of the organizing committee.

The demonstration is sponsored by Hands Off Cuba, a coalition composed of religious, political, intellectual, and peace-seeking groups, among others. The demonstration will end in front of the Cuban mission to the United Nations. Demonstrators will protest against the Bush Administration's hostile policy toward Cuba which has intensified over the last few months.

Hands Off Cuba, an organization created in New York on 26 March, denounced measures implemented by Washington recently regarding Cuba such as the beginning of illegal television transmissions, the hardening of the economic blockade, and the White House's intention of isolating Cuba in the international arena.

Castro Addresses Youths at Rally in Havana

PA0704200890 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0525 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at youth rally in Maceo Park, Havana; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Young comrades: I now understand why late this evening I was told that there was a rumor going around that I would be speaking at midnight, tonight. I asked: Where did that rumor come from? If you cannot hear me that is terrible. I asked: Where did that rumor come from? Throughout the afternoon and evening, after you were already here, I had to attend a news conference that lasted approximately two and a half hours—from 1800 to 2100. I then said—if you cannot hear me, then keep quiet—well, I am free now. I felt so free that I almost sat down to eat. When I feel free, I feel like eating. Just imagine what would happen if on a day like today, when I have gone all day without eating, I was to come here with only half my digestion process over and make a speech at midnight and what is more, a pinch-hit [cuarto bate] speech. [applause]

Then I got to thinking, Robertico [Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, UJC] told me that you wanted me to say a few words—only a few words, not a speech, would be fine. Robertico already made a speech and he hit a home run with the bases loaded. [applause] We are ahead by so many home runs that we better just touch the ball and send it out to third base. [laughter]

Well then, I believe that today is a day of great importance, another day that the youths celebrate with maximum spirit of struggle and fighting. It has been a day of happiness like all other days, and not even the infamous

aggression against our sovereignty, through that miserable freak [engendro] of a television station they are attempting to name after Marti—the first of the Cuban anti-imperialists and most prominent anti-Yankee—[applause] has prevented the happiness and enthusiasm of our people and the great happiness of our youth from showing.

In the presence of a crowd of youths like you, while attending an event like this, at a moment like this, and at a place like this, even if one does not wish to, one must stop and think; and even if you try not to, you cannot help but be filled with emotion.

There are many things that cross one's mind in just minutes. I had just left that news conference—which was later carried on television to all the people and which you obviously did not see because you were here—and still had everything that went on there fresh in my mind. I remember some ideas and concepts that were discussed during the news conference. There were about 200 correspondents present, more than 100 foreign correspondents present; most of the correspondents there were foreign correspondents. I did not know that it was going to be a news conference.

The comrades that lead the battle against the teleaggression had invited foreign reporters to speak to them and to put our point of view across. So, many reporters came—far more than our comrades could have ever imagined. They were told they would be meeting a high-ranking leader; many of them believed they would be meeting me. That left me no other alternative but to accept the invitation the comrades made to take part in that news conference. Several things were discussed there, which will be published. One of the things that was put across there was the theory of whether or not our spirit of resistance is correct, if our decision to resist, our strategy to resist, is correct in the face of that haughty, overconfident, and arrogant enemy, just when the world's revolutionary movement has suffered a great setback—we could even go so far as to call it a disaster. This has caused pessimism among many spirits throughout the world. The theory has emerged just when Cuba is facing a gigantic task—I would say a task that is worthy of the giant we have in front of us—when our people are fully decided on defending the revolution, whatever the price, when our people are decided on making any sacrifice. The theory emerged—this theory has emerged during other historic moments—it did not emerge here, it emerged abroad, among Europeans, even among some Latin American friends. It emerged especially in the brain of the empire and its advisers. It is the anti-hero theory, the anti-resistance theory, the theory of concessions to the empire, the theory of surrender, and the theory of those of the big ditch pact [pacto del zanjon].

There is a great illusion, a false illusion, of believing that revolutionary processes can live or survive by granting concessions. Those in history who have believed that revolutionary ideas can renounce their principles have always been vanquished. Those in history who have believed this, have always been defeated. What happened in East Europe is all too recent. [In Europe] they began by making small concessions, then more and newer concessions; they gave the end of the little finger, then they were asked for another bit, then came the finger, followed by the hand, afterward the arms; later, their heads were snapped off. This is what has really happened to these East European socialist processes. In some of these countries, the most extreme reactionary right-wingers have taken over, so the theory that a revolutionary process is able to survive by granting concessions is the most absurd and mistaken theory that can be conceived.

As I told the reporters, only the brave, only those who struggle, and only those who resist, win. [applause] We were thinking of this when we arrived here. We thought of our youth. The [reporters] asked that if resisting was not tantamount to collective suicide. I replied that we preferred death to slavery. [applause] I replied that we preferred death to not being free. Only in freedom, honor, dignity, and in the high goals humans can set for themselves can there be true happiness and fortune. I thought and meditated: This is our youth and they are merry and happy. As someone said, these youths are cultured and have strong political awareness; they have strong revolutionary awareness. [applause] What we want for these youths is a destiny of honor, dignity, happiness, and liberty. What we want for all of them is the best of all possible worlds. We want their security. For mankind, we want the most that one can wish for. We do not want for these youths capitalist corruption, selfishness, vices, or that hateful world we have left behind. We do not want to be a dependent country again. We do not want to be a country of owners again. We do not want to be a people with masters again. We do not want to go down so dishonorably. That is why we have told those who sincerely worry about our future that we prefer death to slavery. We shall not resign for any reason or circumstance whatsoever, amid any difficulty, from the path that we have chosen. Do not fear for us.

This reminds me of the time the Batista troops launched their last offensive on the Sierra Maestra. The enemy chief, who had 10,000 soldiers fighting against 300 of us, sent a message saying that he regretted what was going to happen because we were very brave—he meant us—and that it would be a loss for the fatherland. He suggested talks. We thanked him. We said: Thank you. We are willing to talk, but after the offensive. If you enter the Sierra Maestra, break our lines, defeat every soldier you encounter, and exterminate every single one of us, but do not cry over our deaths, because we will have written one of the most glorious pages in history. Even the children of the soldiers fighting against us today will look up with pride at the peaks and mountains of the Sierra Maestra. [applause] We were convinced, very convinced of our victory. However, we did not speak with arrogance. We did not say: We are going to defeat you. All we did was tell them that we would not talk before the offensive; we

told them we would talk after the offensive and that was what we did. We talked while we returned hundreds and hundreds of prisoners who had been taken by those 300 people who defeated the tyranny's 10,000 soldiers. I am not saying that the enemy is suggesting talks, but if the imperialist enemy was to suggest talks with threats, we would give them the very same answer. I was not talking about the enemy, but about those who feel sorry for us because of our honorable situation.

In these difficult times, when part of the socialist world has crumbled, when the enemy feels brave, triumphant, arrogant, and more aggressive than ever, now that we, and only we, can defend the banners of socialism in our fatherland [applause], now that we are living the most glorious moment of all our history—and that is saying a lot when we are talking about a history as rich as ours—we tell those who feel sorry for us: Have no fear, we prefer death to slavery. We would prefer to die than to surrender. The truth is that in one way or another they are suggesting a surrender. He who grants concessions, he who allows the violation of the basic principles of a revolution, he who takes that path, will end with the Zanjon Pact. He who takes that path, capitulates. Young comrades, I do believe what I said earlier: There can only be happiness with dignity; there can only be happiness with freedom. A slave does not smile, a slave has no honor, a slave has no dignty, a slave has no respect. If there is anything a slave deserves, it is pity.

When I saw you today, when I saw your happiness this evening during this event, I was thinking how straight and fair our line is and how there must be happiness and love if there is to be a smile. If there is to be a smile, it can only be in freedom and dignity. I told myself: I am sure that none of these youths here would ever choose the path of capitulation, the path of slavery. I thought: How many symbols do we have here tonight. We have the symbol of a healthy youth, the symbol of fighting youth, the symbol of an unsurpassable youth; an exceptional moment in the history of our fatherland, a moment of struggle, a moment of firmness, a moment of decision. And Maceo's symbol is in our midst. The highest symbol of national dignity, the highest symbol of courage and honor in our wars of independence, the symbol of the most glorious feat in our history, the Baragua protest. [applause]

That is why here, standing before Maceo's statue, I ask: What path will we follow? The path of slavery [people shout "no"] or the path of freedom? The path of capitulation or resistance? [crowd shouts: "resistance"] Young comrades loved by the revolutionary fatherland, what path will you choose? The Zanjon or Baragua? [applause]

I have nothing more to say. Let us continue to enjoy this anniversary with happiness because our country will be an eternal Baragua. [applause] An eternal Baragua means an eternal revolution, eternal freedom. Even though we say fatherland or death, we also say we will win! To choose the path of resistance means that we will not only be capable of resisting, but also of winning. [applause] We are simply—and you know and feel this—undefeatable. A people and a revolution that have youth like you, are undefeatable. [applause] For this reason, standing here before Antonio Maceo's statue, let us say that we will be capable of following his example, that we know that we are capable of resisting and defeating, that we are capable of fulfilling our heroic and glorious slogans: Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [applause]

Commentary Defines Montelimar Summit Conclusions

PA0604195290 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Amid suffocating heat and a strong earth tremor that took place minutes before the conclusion of the meeting, two days of discussions at the sixth summit meeting of Central American presidents were held at the Nicaraguan beach resort of Montelimar. As is known, the central topic of the meeting—as it was in the previous meeting held in San Isidro Coronado, Costa Rica—was the demobilization of the counterrevolutionary bands of Nicaraguan origin. With this, a part of the Esquipulas II agreements signed in August 1987 is hereby complied with.

Shortly after the start of the sixth meeting of the heads of state, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that only the demobilization and dismantling of the mercenary forces could close the first phase of the efforts to bring peace to Central America. Those wishes may turn into fact, since that is one of the most important points agreed on in Montelimar. On this matter, point five of the presidential declaration reads as follows: to emphasize the need for the immediate demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance in accordance with the joint plan signed at the Tela summit on 7 August 1989 and the Toncontin agreement signed in Honduras on 23 March 1990, and to express our satisfaction with the willingness shown by the involved parties toward that goal.

It is clear there is no longer any room for these bands that ravaged Nicaragua for 10 years. There are no more excuses for keeping those 12,000 mercenaries from surrendering their weapons and starting a normal life. To achieve that, there is the control of the United Nations and the International Support and Verification Commission. An important aspect of this latest presidential agreement involves the destruction of the counterrevolutionaries' weapons. These weapons must be burned at the site of the demobilization in the presence of representatives of other Central American governments invited for this purpose by the corresponding authorities.

We must say that some sectors of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution refuse to lay down their weapons. However, henceforth, they have no other alternative than to accept the presidential decisions of the latest summit meeting, since their existence as an armed group lost its

purpose following the elections held in Nicaragua and the victory of the National Opposition Union. Other aspects were also discussed at the summit meeting, including the reactivation of the regional economy and its evolution into an integrated system, a review of the foreign debt problem and a better distribution of its social costs, and the necessary adjustment of the economies.

To conclude, it is worth noting that less than one month before handing over power, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega may see the defeat of the U.S.-financed and U.S.-supported mercenary bands that inflicted over 100,000 deaths in his country. For Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, who not long ago was a housewife without political ambition or experience in this field, securing peace will be hard work as well as a starting point to rebuild a country economically destroyed by a war encouraged and maintained by the White House.

Havana: 7,000 Civilians Died in Panama Invasion

FL0604174990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] After the invasion and occupation of Panama by U.S. troops last December, a great many attempts have been made to conceal the number of civilians killed in that nation. The U.S. Government has applied its powerful propaganda machine towards this purpose. Nevertheless, it is ever more obvious before the eyes of the world that what happened in Panama was true genocide. The Yankee occupying troops acted with as much ferocity as in Vietnam, and the Panamanian case is already recorded as one of the most criminal, villainous deeds committed by imperialism against a Latin American country.

Today, not even the Pentagon is capable of denying that at least 200 civilians were killed in Panama. But this figure is categorically contradicted by political leaders with whom we have spoken, who lived through the somber days of the invasion and today are in political exile. According to these sources, at least 2,000 Panamanian civilians were victims of the gunfire of the invading U.S. Army.

However, it may be alleged that these are not impartial sources. But to this we can answer that Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, believes that the Yankee invasion and occupation of Panama took the lives of more than 7,000 civilians. It must be asked: Is Ramsey Clark not an impartial source? Mr. Clark, in addition to being an impartial source, is an expert in this kind of evaluation and a man who saw what happened in Panama.

So, in spite of the attempts by the U.S. Government, the truth has come out. The image of liberators attributed to the occupying army has collapsed, and the truth—that is, that of the genocidal soldiery—remains a perennial accusation.

CSFR Official: Relations To Remain 'Cold'

FL0704030690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Telephone report by special correspondent Josefa Busi, from Prague, CSSR, on "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] Mr. (Favel Pratinka), second chief of the International Department of the Civic Forum, the country's main political group, told this reporter that relations between Cuba and the CSFR will remain cold. In a brief interview granted for this newscast, the official also said that the phrase, "Third World," is not very pleasant because they do not have a colonial past, have no commitments, and have no reason to be ashamed of colonialism. [sentence as heard]

The high-level official of the Civic Forum said that one of the most important achievements of his group is that they have been able to revive the policies of the parties that were more oppressed in the past, referring to the actions of the previous socialist government.

In reality, during the days that I have been here in Prague, I have observed great confusion among the population. I think that they wanted and needed changes but one will have to see if the these parties will make the changes that the people need [words indistinct] developed and with a high standard of living. Right now, everyone is waiting to see what happens. More than 30 political parties have interests in the government. In the meantime, the people work and study, hoping to maintain the undeniable benefits of socialism but with the stores full of poorly-manufactured goods from the West, obtained by the people in power have obtained.

I should also mention that many colleagues, who passed through here before the November events, have told me to to walk down the enchanting streets of picturesque Prague at night. Unfortunately, I have not been able to do this because the criminals and opportunists have made the streets their own since there are no police guarding the streets. When a citizen is asked why he (?puts up) with this situation, he says because his country is now free and everyone does whatever he feels like doing.

Castro, Korean Minister Discuss Cooperation

FL0604115890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with Chu Yong-hun, DPRK minister of the construction materials industry, who has been visiting Cuba at the head of a delegation since 27 March.

At the meeting, which took place in the cordial, friendly climate which characterizes the relations between the two countries, they discussed cooperation in that field. The DPRK minister transmitted to the commander in chief greetings from Kim Il-song, DPRK president and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party.

Fidel in turn returned the greetings and extended them to the Korean people. The commander in chief showed interest in the document signed yesterday with the Cuban minister of the materials industry, which stresses investments in the cement industry. This industry is essential to ensuring Cuba's construction works plans.

Trade Minister on Consumer Product Problems

FL0604182290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Ministry of Domestic Trade is working intensely on the problems regarding supplies of consumer products, especially on everything having to do with food. This was reported at a news conference held at the ministry's building in Havana by Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa. He repeated that the system for selling nonrationed products will be limited to the stocks existing at the different units. He said that this was being done and had the support of the entire population.

Another matter brought up by Vila Sosa at the news conference concerned the organization of lines, distribution of shifts, and the system for entering the commercial establishments when they are selling high-demand products. Here he stressed that the managers, as the representatives of the government that they are obligated to watch over this.

The reduction in shortfalls, the offensive that is being waged against those who stand in lines for a living, and the increase in meat production obtained by the 142 commercial self-sufficient farms, were also discussed by the domestic trade minister. He also referred to the training work and efforts made by the ministry in repairing the offices to register the population, and the gifts for newlyweds at wedding gift stores, where better cooperation is being sought with the marriage centers so that customers can find everything they need at these units.

'Tobacco War' Between Cubatabaco, Oettinger

FL0604233790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2239 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, 6 Apr (NOTIMEX)—It was learned here today that the tobacco war between Cubatabaco [Cuban Tobacco Enterprise] and the Swiss group, Oettinger, has entered a stage of confrontation as both of them claim ownership of the famous Havana Davidof cigars.

Roberto Yeach, deputy director of the exclusive tobacco export enterprise, Cubatabaco, announced this week that the Cuban company will continue to manufacture and sell the famous Davidof cigars in Europe. The cigars had been manufactured by their Swiss partner since 1969 until the Oettinger Group broke trade relations last month with the Caribbean company because they felt Cuban tobacco no longer was of an international quality. The break in relations has led to litigation between the two tobacco companies because both of them have awarded themselves and claim to own the property and distribution rights of the Davidof cigar, whose price on the international market is between $18 and $25 a piece.

According to Cubatabaco, the Davidof trademark and sales rights belong exclusively to the Cuban enterprise. However, Yeach said, we became aware a while ago that Oettinger has conducted deceptive operations with the cigar enterprise. The Cuban official said that a contract was signed with the Oettinger Group in 1969 giving the Davidof property and distribution rights to the Caribbean enterprise while the Oettinger Group was granted the right to sell the tobaccos on the international market. Yeach said that after relations were broken with Cubatabaco on 15 March, the Swiss group announced it would purchase the tobacco from another island in the region because, according to their calculations, the tobacco on other islands is of equal or better quality than Cuban tobacco. Cubatabaco does not believe that Oettinger will have good results, Yeach said, because we are certain that no other place in the world, outside of Cuba, raises the kind of tobacco that has made the Davidof famous.

Government Makes Debt Payment to Spain

PA0904003090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0103 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, 31 Mar (EFE)—On 31 March, Cuba made the first payment of 1990 on its debt to repay Spanish citizens for property confiscated by Fidel Castro's government since 1959.

The payment was 240 million pesetas (over $2 million), which was made in lobster, prawn, and shrimp.

According to information provided to EFE by a Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry source, with this payment, Cuba has now paid Spain 722 million pesetas (nearly $7 million) of the total 5.416 billion peseta (about $50 million) debt.

The agreements signed between the Cuban and Spanish Governments went into effect in March 1988.

The Spanish Govern.nent has presented to parliament a draft resolution to pay indemnity to those affected, with Spanish treasury funds so they can receive their money while the government-to-government payments are being made.

The agreement stipulates 15 payments—from 1988 to the year 2002—of 360 million pesetas yearly ($3 million), two-thirds of which is paid in merchandise and the rest in cash.

Cuba fell behind on its payments in 1989—both in merchandise, mostly coffee, and in cash—because of a lack of government liquidity, as was acknowledged by Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry officials.

The cash portion of the payment for the first half of this year amounts to 60 million pesetas (slightly over $500,000) and, according to Cuban sources, will be paid at the beginning of April, while the remaining 60 million pesetas ($500,000) will be paid in September.

The information on the indemnification payments from Cuba to Spain was confirmed by sources at the Spanish Embassy in Havana, who added that they considered the level of Cuban compliance with the agreement satisfactory.

Computer Virus Discovered; Effective 13 Apr

FL0704030790 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2343 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Report by Roberto Paneque on "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] [Paneque] On Friday, 13 April, all computers in Cuba that have been contaminated by the so-called Colina virus, which was detected by the electronics front, will gradually slow down until all their programs are erased from the machine. [In announcing the headlines, the announcer reports that the virus originated in Israel's Hebrew University] To learn more details about this, computer specialist Antonio Duque Gonzalez of the Central Planning Board [Juceplan] will tell the audience of Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo" program what a computer virus is.

[Duque Gonzalez] A virus is a series of programs. A series of programs is created which contaminates the programs on a computer's hard drive. When the programs on the computer are applied, they are contaminated further by other programs. This is a war we are fighting by detecting viruses in the Juceplan.

[Paneque] You are doing this in the Juceplan or in the country?

[Duque Gonzalez] We are looking for virus in the country in general but primarily here in the Juceplan since we have several pieces of equipment, more than 100, and it would be a very serious matter if they were all contaminated by a virus. If all the work we do, our entire system was affected, it would create a great problem for us.

[Paneque] I see that you have developed a very good culture, a very good discipline to fight viruses in the Juceplan.

[Duque Gonzalez] Well, regarding the appearance of viruses here in the Juceplan, we began applying several measures over the past two years or so. We check all diskettes and hard drives. We have gradually been able to install this detection system on the machines themselves, on the computers. We also strictly control and inspect all the diskettes that enter the Juceplan so we can take all the pertinent measures if a virus is detected.

The detection of viruses in the Juceplan has had two stages. In the first stage, with the [words indistinct] that we had at the time, we gradually began to install the virus detectors on the computers. We now have a number of detectors that have provided us with some good capabilities in detecting viruses. We have also established records of our software so if it is altered or contaminated by a virus we are not familiar with, we will be able to detect it. We have taken other measures that I will not describe here because the comrade radio listeners would not understand them, but we have done a lot of work on this. A collective of comrades have worked on this, not just me. There is a group of specialists who have done this work and we have been modifying the system and working to minimize the application time on each piece of equipment since it is a little time-consuming.

[Paneque] Thank you Comrade Duque Gozalez, computer virus specialist at the Juceplan.

We remind all computer users that on 13 April, if you do not check your machines, all the work you did last year or the previous year will be destroyed.

Grenada

New Government's Development Plan Presented

FL0704182290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1509 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Grenada, St George's, Grenada, April 7, CANA—The three-week old Grenada Government hopes to stimulate the island's economy by encouraging investment and revamping the existing fiscal system, Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon has said. Delivering the traditional throne speech at the first session of Parliament since the March 13 general elections, Sir Paul said the stimulation of investment is fundamental to the development of the local economy.

He said the government would encourage local investment by creating a soft window at local banks to help finance small industries and high risk projects. "As a means of attracting and encouraging private investment-...government will strengthen the infrastructural base of the economy...," he added. Sir Paul said the government would review the fiscal system with a view to improving it. "The existing fiscal regime will be comprensively examined by a consultative team representing commercial, industrial, labour and other organisations within the community," he reported.

"...Government wishes to emphasise that such review will not provide for the reintroduction of personal income tax. However, my government will ask the review team to assess the merits of a modern and acceptable system of taxation on the profits of corporation vis a vis the business levy," he added.

Sir Paul said the government intends to establish industrial parks across the island, which would concentrate on light industry for exports. "Steps will be taken to create opportunities in the industrial field to assist young engineers and entrepreneurs to set up their own business to meet the demand for industrial components internationally," he told Parliament Friday [6 April].

There was also a commitment from the government to assist in the expansion of the agricultural sector. Sir Paul said plans call for exporting winter vegetable fruits to the United States and Europe. "Support will be given to existing agro-industries at the cottage level and also for export," he added.

During the parliamentary session agriculturalist Marcel Peters was elected speaker of Parliament, and female broadcaster Margaret Neckles as president of the Senate, the first woman to hold the post.

Haiti

Justice Minister Defends Decision on CEP

FL0604201690 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...Ronald Paul, who is head of the Civic Education Department of the CEP [Provisional/ Permanent Electoral Council] set up by Prosper Avril, granted us an interview on 4 April. Paul said the 1987 CEP's mission ended on 7 February 1989 when former president Leslie Francois Manigat was sworn in as president of Haiti, having been elected on 17 January 1988—as per Article 289 of the Constitution of 1987.

Paul added that Justice Minister Labissiere's decision to reinstate the CNG's [National Government Council] CEP is preventing him from normally performing the work of civic education that is his job, and creates total confusion in the electoral process. He says he feels they should have abrogated the decree forming Prosper Avril's CEP before deciding to reinstate the members of the 1987 CEP. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [passage omitted] So you greatly disapprove of the minister's decision?

[Paul] It is not a matter of me, personally, disapproving! What I am saying is that the effects of this decision are unfortunate. [passage omitted] The minister's installation of a provisional CEP from 1987 in 1990 is not constitutional—because Article 289, paragraph 3, of the Constitution says textually: [switches to French] The CEP's mission ends as soon as the elected president of the Republic takes office.

One might not like the way Manigat came to power, but he was indeed elected. One can dislike this. That is a problem of a political nature, a different type of consideration. However, the fact is that Manigat was elected and sworn in. In fact, he was so clearly elected and sworn in that to oust him, they effected a coup d'etat. One might not like this, but it is a fact. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Justice Minister Pierre C. Labissiere, whom we interviewed, said many people are pretending not to understand his decision, (?or) are of bad faith. According to Labissiere, his decision was motivated by a desire to act within the legality that returned to Haiti when Mrs. Trouillot became Haiti's provisional president.

During the interview he granted us, Minister Labissiere reminded everyone that he has left the organizations concerned three options for reconstituting the CEP. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Labissiere] I have not reinstated the first CEP. I just put it back in its place. The Constitution says that the government was to form a CEP to hold elections in 1987, right? That is constitutional. The Constitution empowered the government to do this. Now, the Constitution cannot be referred to for anything the government did after that.

Now, the current government is a government that has returned to legality. It must do what is legal. Since that CEP is the one that is constitutional, and since the government has reinstated the Constitution, the organization that was formed in conformity with the Constitution is the one that must hold elections. There is nothing extraordinary about that!

[Reporter] But Mr. Labissiere, there was a CEP that held an election that everyone accepted; and a president was sworn in, under the Constitution; and all international institutions and everyone accepted him, and he was working with the Constitution. We mean President Leslie Manigat. Article 289.3 of the Constitution says that the CEP's job ends the minute a president is sworn in.

Now there is another CEP. So what is going on? There is a little imbroglio here.

[Labissiere] No, there is no imbroglio, unless they wish to complicate the matter. [passage omitted]

It is very simple. [passage omitted] No other government was empowered by the Constitution to form any other CEP. Also, the Haitian people maintain that the other CEPs, those formed later, were unconstitutional. Only one CEP is Constitutional: the first CEP. Thus—and I repeat, for this is very important—since we are returning to legality, legality must be reestablished with respect to the rights and prerogatives of this legality, as they said.

Now, you talk to me about Manigat's being president. Everyone knows this. It is a fact that Manigat was president. But what CEP held the elections from which Manigat issued? A CEP that the Haitian people said was not constitutional! Now, you must not forget that when the population takes a position, you must at least respect it. And from that moment on....[changes thought] since

the population says that CEP was not constitutional, everything that CEP did is tainted. I will not get involved in all those arguments, because....[changes thought] the essential thing is that the Haitian people must be given satisfaction. The population says that the first CEP is constitutional and the others are not, and since it is an institution that is to hold elections, the institution that was formed—in which the population believed—is now in its place, correctly. Do you know what I mean? I am not going to get into all the other details.

[Reporter] I understand, Mr. Labissiere, yet the population accepted Manigat as president. He spent four months in office!

[Labissiere] No, do not say that! Do not say that! That is a different matter. You are asking me a different question there. You are asking me if I contest Manigat's legitimacy or not. That does not concern me. I am not going to get into all those problems. My problem concerns what the Haitian people want. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] On 27 March you issued a press release asking all organizations represented on the CEP to either reconfirm their representative or choose a new one, and you gave them five days in which to do so. Before the five days were out, you decided to reinstate the other CEP.

[Labissiere] The decision in the communique....[changes thought] It is very simple. You people read the communique incorrectly! I do not know whether you did it on purpose or not. The communique is very simple. It says that different political sectors have criticized the CEP's management council. They really were right to do so, because no one, no provisional or de facto government, has the right to create a permanent CEP! [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the government added to this permanent CEP a matter of a management council for this CEP. This is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution! Yet you accepted that. You understood that, right? What is not comprehensible is that you tell me you understand! But now you do not understand that in the communique I am telling you that what the government wants to do is set in motion the electoral process, which is blocked! And since when has the process been blocked? Since 29 November, of course! The electoral process has been blocked since 19 November, not just since yesterday or the day before yesterday!

Next, I refer you to Article 289 of the Constitution, right? But, while I refer you to Article 289 of the Constitution, I give you the possibility of understanding that it is the provisional CEP that should be formed! Now you tell me the CEP's mandate ends as soon as there is an elected president who is elected under the conditions provided for in the Constitution by the institution competent to do it. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I understand, Mr. Labissiere, but let me ask you: Since the last CEP was not constitutional, as you say, I do not understand how the organizations represented on it could have chosen representatives—among them the human rights organizations people, and all the other organizations!

[Labissiere] Yes, well, that is not my problem! That is not (?Ti Pierre's) problem today! That is the organizations' problem! In fact, so true is this that I myself have given them three options! Three! First, they can reconfirm the same representative, if they like. Second, they can choose someone else. Third, they have the option of choosing the person who was on the first CEP! I mean, what more can I do, huh? One should try to be logical with oneself, you know.

[Reporter] But you yourself were a member of the first CEP.

[Labissiere] Right.

[Reporter] So, what should I make of this?

[Labissiere] You should understand, and the Constitution itself tells you, that in case of abstention or inability....[changes thought] because the Constitution tells you that you cannot be both a government official and a member of the CEP. I myself, by law, cannot return to the CEP. They must choose someone else. See what I mean? There is nothing complicated about this! People want to complicate things so people will not understand. But there is nothing complicated in this. It is very simple. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Political Parties Solicit Dominican Cooperation

FL0604164390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The main political organizations in Haiti have asked the Dominican authorities to promise not to allow their country to serve as a base for Duvalierist terrorist subversion against Haiti. At a meeting yesterday with Dominican ambassador to Haiti, Jose del Carmen Acosta, the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC]—which has 14 principal political parties as members—asked for a formal, solemn declaration that the Dominican Republic will support the democratic process in Haiti. The AC also asked that a Dominican Republic blacklist of people who opposed the Duvalier regime and whom the Dominican authorities did not want entering the Dominican Republic be annulled.

AC member Arnold Antonin will give us further details.

[Begin recording, in progess] [Antonin] ...told us he was very happy with the work that was being done. He said the Dominican Foreign Office and the Dominican Government felt that a transition to democracy in Haiti would be very positive toward an improvement in the relations between the two countries, and that they would go even further—that at present the Dominican Foreign Office would like to open a new era in Dominican-Haitian relations.

Different political leaders present at the meeting asked questions. One of the questions that kept coming up in the talks, that they kept asking the Dominican ambassador, was the matter of security, or rather insecurity, in Haiti, and the matter of Duvalierist and macoute activity in the Dominican Republic.

They told the ambassador that the Dominican Republic had become a sort of sanctuary, a safe haven for many thieves and criminals from the former regime. Also, many leaders told me, and I think it was a generalized sentiment, that they had stressed their concern about this particularly because there have even been infiltrations, with perhaps even weapons crossing the border.

The Dominican ambassador said, regarding this matter, that his country had laws that these people had to respect. He asked us, the Assembly, to present him a formal request regarding this matter, so they could give the men formal notice in the Dominican Republic in this regard—that is, to tell them: Listen, if you are political refugees, there are Dominican laws that you must obey. You cannot continue to try to create subversion and disorder in Haiti.

[Reporter] Did the Dominican ambassador make a solemn statement supporting the democratic process in Haiti, Mr. Antonin?

[Antonin] Yes. He made an unequivocal, clear, firm statement to the effect that he supports the democratic process in Haiti and that if macoutes or other people who are out to create problems in Haiti are operating, they will take all necessary measures to stop it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We point out that there are many political figures with ties to the Duvalier regime living in the Dominican Republic, among them Dr. Roger Lafontant, Franck Romain, and former President-General Henri Namphy.

Jamaica

China Grants Loan of J29 Million Dollars

FL0604211090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 6 Apr

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 6, CANA—China has made a J29 million dollars [Jamaican dollars] loan to Jamaica. The loan documents were signed on Thursday [5 April] by the visiting Chinese Minister of Textile and Industry Mrs. Wu Wenying and Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade David Coore.

The loan is for the implementation of development projects and technical co-operation programmes to be agreed on by both governments. The interest-free loan is repayable over 10 years through convertible currencies and or Jamaican exports, to be agreed on by both governments. Repayments will be made at an annual rate of one-tenth of the disbursed portion of the loan.

The Chinese Government has also made a supplementary grant to Jamaica of J1.4 million dollars for the financing of technical assistance projects, agreements for which were also formalised.

Trinidad and Tobago

Cabinet Outlines New National-Service Proposal

FL0604215790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 6, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago cabinet has announced details and a new name for its much-criticised national service proposal.

An official statement from Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's office announced that the service, to now be called the National Training and Service Programme, would be voluntary, community-based and with no residential requirements.

Cabinet discussed the national service proposal at its regular Thursday meeting following growing opposition to the plan which had originally been proposed in the 1986 elections manifesto of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). In the absence of details for the scheme, religious groups in particular had opposed the idea, calling for it to be scrapped and comparing it with national service experiments in other countries.

Cabinet also set up two committees—one to talk to various groups including the inter-religious organisation (IRO) on organisation and monitoring of the programme. The second committee, headed by planning minister, Winston Dookeran, will formulate a report on the whole national service issue.

Government Pleased With Regional Summit Results

PA0904014690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1507 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Apr (DPA)—The Mexican Government expressed its satisfaction over the most recent Central American presidents' meeting and reaffirmed its "firm determination" to support the attainment of its objectives "to the extent that Central Americans want us to."

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat, in a communique released on 6 April, stated that the Central American meeting held on 2 and 3 April in Montelimar, Nicaragua, "reflects the firm political determination to achieve peace for all their peoples through the fruitful paths of dialogue and negotiation."

The Foreign Secretariat stated that it believes the agreements reached during that meeting, especially the decision to support the Nicaraguan contras' demobilization and the transition of power process in Nicaragua, constitute "significant contributions" to bring about lasting peace in the region.

It added that the Mexican Government believes the five Central American presidents "are firmly determined to build their own future and achieve peace and development in their respective countries."

The Foreign Secretariat also announced that Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana on 9 April will travel to Ireland and Hungary to participate in international meetings on future European cooperation efforts to foster Central American development.

In Dublin, Ireland's capital, Solana will attend the so-called sixth meeting of the San Jose dialogue, a mechanism established in 1984 in which the EEC foreign ministers and their "Group of Three" (Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico) counterparts will try to promote "as much as possible" the establishment of economic cooperation programs for Central American countries.

Afterward, the chief of Mexican diplomacy will travel to Budapest, Hungary, the site of the first meeting of the Group of Rio (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela) foreign ministers and their counterparts from Central and Eastern Europe.

The Foreign Secretariat points out that this meeting will address the current and future situation of Latin America and a united Europe to promote a greater rapprochement between the two regions and to explore cooperation mechanisms in areas of common interest, such as environmental protection, the antidrug struggle, scientific-technical cooperation, and support for efforts to achieve development and economic growth.

As for the economy, the foreign ministers will discuss the establishment of the single European market scheduled for 1992, Latin American regional integration, and the role and importance of several international cooperation instruments and organizations such as ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] and GATT.

100 Arrested in Recovery of 16 Mayors' Offices

PA0604214790 Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Morelia, Mexico, 6 Apr (AFP)—The police and Army seized several dozen weapons and arrested more than 100 persons yesterday in a lightning operation to recover 16 of the 19 mayors' offices in the Mexican State of Michoacan. The offices have been occupied by the leftist opposition for the last three months.

According to latest reports today, only the municipal offices of Epitacio Huerta, Apoyo, and Nocupetaro, considered by local newspapers as "nonessential," remain in the hands of the members of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

All reports agree that the situation on the streets of this state capital 210 km west of Mexico City is now normal and peaceful, following yesterday's tension because of the presence of armored vehicles and trucks carrying soldiers and federal policemen armed with submachine guns and rifles.

"I think the mere presence of the armed corps was enough to persuade the PRD members to leave the mayors' offices," a state government spokesman stated.

Cuahtemoc Cardenas, foremost PRD leader and former presidential candidate, said yesterday that "we will increase vigilance around the municipalities that were evacuated whenever we feel like it," and warned that his party is "in total insurgency and in total rebellion."

The PRD members seized the mayors' offices arguing they had been the victims of fraud in last December's municipal elections. Since that time there have been confrontations between PRD members and members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (ruling PRI), with an unofficial toll of 12 dead.

Meanwhile, it is expected the situation will return completely to normal by the end of the day, a PRI spokesperson said, noting that "the authentic municipal presidents will soon take charge of their offices," which are being guarded by the Army, and are only "waiting for them to be cleaned up."

Group Claims Responsibility for Killing 2 Guards

PA0804191690 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Apr (AFP)—In a message sent to the newspaper UNOMASUNO, the extremist Revolutionary Workers Clandestine People's Union Party [Partido Revolucionario Obrero Clandestino Union del Pueblo—PROCUP) has claimed responsibility for the 2 April killing of two guards at Mexico City's LA JORNADA newspaper.

In a message hidden in a floral arrangement sent to UNOMASUNO, the PROCUP said the two guards were killed "because they tried to stop our comrade," who moments earlier had left a package with subversive propaganda at the reception desk of LA JORNADA.

The Mexico City Attorney General's Office said on the night of 6 April that it has fully identified Alejandro Rodriguez and Andres Garcia Valle as the perpetrators of the double homicide and Felipe Martinez Soriano as an accomplice. Arrest warrants have been issued for them.

The Attorney General's Office also said that of the 166 people arrested on 5 April on suspicion of being involved in the crime, only 25 are still being held and will be investigated for their suspected participation in various crimes.

In its message to UNOMASUNO, the PROCUP defined itself as a party formed by "social fighters, workers, peasants, and other sectors of the people," and it proclaimed "the armed struggle as a response to the constant institutionalized repression by the Mexican state."

At the end of the 1970's, guerrilla groups in Mexico were dissolved. These included the powerful 23 September League which carried out kidnappings and robberies throughout the country.

El Salvador

Cristiani Delivers Speech on Economic 'Crisis'

PA0904052390 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0205 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani "to the Salvadoran people"; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadorans. We want to take advantage of this opportunity—the eve of Holy Week vacations—to bring up several issues for consideration so that we all can take advantage of this time, when we are with our families, to get closer to God and to think about our country, El Salvador.

Of course, El Salvador is experiencing a crisis that affects us all, some to a greater and some to a lesser extent, but nobody escapes what is happening in our country. Perhaps—although at times it may be repetitive—I think it is necessary for us to analyze again the causes of the crisis that our country is experiencing.

First, there is the terrorism and the effects of the destruction caused by these acts of irrational violence. Throughout the decade, the destruction generated by the terrorism of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has reached figures that perhaps few of us realize. In recounting the destruction of the last decade, we can quantify it at approximately $4 billion U.S. dollars. To give you an idea of what that amount of money signifies, let me give you an example: The total destruction caused by the FMLN equals 50 times the [annual] education budget of our country. This means that over the last decade, we could have multiplied what the country invests in educating the people by five if that destruction had not occurred. But if we want to view it in the sense of how it has affected us personally, the loss caused by destruction is equivalent to approximately 6,000 colones for each Salvadoran. Although it is true that 6,000 colones for some does not seem to be a big loss, unfortunately, in our country there are many persons to whom 6,000 colones represents their annual income. Furthermore, this destruction, especially the destruction of the economy and the destruction of job sources, means that many Salvadorans are now in a position that they cannot earn an honest living for themselves and their family.

Of course, considering again the possibilities of what could have been done with that money— how much money could have been spent on education, health, and housing programs if we had not had to use those resources in repairing the irrational damage caused by the FMLN? Every time an electric power line has to be repaired, this prevents the Education Ministry from being able to supply school materials, from paying more professors to teach more students. It also prevents the Health Ministry from buying more medicines and providing better equipment to the hospitals and health centers. Of course, this is nothing if we compare it to what it means to a mother and a father to lose a son in this irrational violence.

However, we must repair this destruction. Since this government took office on 1 June of last year, it clearly stated that its principal objective was to achieve peace in our country. We have tried to promote a political commission so that these persons who cause so much damage today to all Salvadorans will stop doing so. We have wanted them to resume a normal life. We have wanted them not to cause anymore unemployment, not to take resources away from the health of our children, and not to take education and knowledge away from our people. We have wanted them to reintegrate into the peaceful civilian life of our country. That is why we view with some optimism the fact that we have again been able to reach an agreement to initiate that dialogue process, which our people cannot wait for any longer.

On 4 April, in Geneva, Switzerland, the UN secretary general read an agreement to once again resume the dialogue, which we hope will get under way as soon as possible. In the second place, the crisis is also due to mistaken economic policies. Why do we say this? Many may say no; it is only terrorist destruction that has caused harm. Regrettably, we see this is not true, and we see how other countries, which do not suffer from terrorist destruction, also face similar economic crises. The only explanation is that those countries' economic policies have also been mistaken. When a government tries to centralize everything, and when a government tries to make society collective and does not allow individuals to develop freely and allow them to join free enterprise with other people to generate employment, wealth, and production, then those mistaken economic measures always lead to disaster. So much so that all Marxist ideology, which centralizes everything, is now collapsing the world over. In Eastern Europe, even in the USSR where these policies of centralization first emerged—with the government handling the entire economy, requiring huge bureacratic operations—Marxism is giving way to a free system. That is why we must understand very clearly that past mistaken policies have left our country in a very serious predicament.

This is how the economy of our country has regressed over 25 years: When we took office in June 1989, we found a government that spent far more than what it received in income. A fiscal deficit is the difference between what the government earns and what it spends—this was 1.2 billion colones. In addition to this deficit, the government had made purchases amounting to approximately 1.1 billion colones that had not been paid. This must be paid because many of the suppliers cannot be blamed for the government's behavior. This enormous expenditure, much greater than the income, only causes inflation and increases the cost of living. During this last decade, we have been suffering from cost-of-living increases due to inflation. We have also been left with a government overburdened with debts.

Domestic debt during the five years preceding 1 June 1989 grew by 1.44 billion colones. The foreign debt grew by 1.9 billion colones.

Here we must add that, aside from the central government, which has to pay all this debt that has been growing over the last five years, we have the autonomous entities, such as CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission], IRA [Institute of Supply Regulation], INCAFE [National Coffee Institute], ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers]—all also accumulating great debts, which now amount to 1.5 billion colones.

What does all this mean? In addition to not having these resources available for health, housing, and education, we see that the autonomous agencies have to somehow pay this debt because, otherwise, it would just grow. This explains why we have had to put up with rate hikes for electric power, water, and so on. [Passage indistinct] Exports of our main products dropped to half because of centralization.

Another sector that the previous government monopolized was the banks, which now show outstanding debts amounting to 2.6 billion colones, a sum that will be very difficult to recoup. This, of course, prevents the banks from giving out loans because they have not been able to recoup these funds to lend to other businessmen or market women. Anyway, there are 2.6 billion colones that cannot be used to boost the country's well-being and development.

Salvadorans, this has not only caused a hike in the cost of living. We found only $100,000 in the Central Reserve Bank, and the foreign debt repayments, which must be paid in dollars, were in arrears. All of this together makes the rise in cost of our currency unrepayable. [sentence as heard] We could not go on this way. So the government has taken responsible measures, and we are going to stabilize our currency over the short term.

We will stabilize our currency by using all of the resources available to the state, and by using them well, for the benefit of the Salvadoran people and to strengthen our country, and not by spending more than we have, and increasingly burdening ourselves with debt.

Salvadorans, the increase in our currency's value is also one of the causes of inflation. The situation I found when I took office was an upward pressure on the cost of living. In other words, [words indistinct] the prices of basic goods were constantly rising or products were scarce, or the value of the dollar for imported products was increasing, or production was increasingly dropping.

In this regard, the cost of living also affects the people who have the least, and that is why we must do something to resolve this situation. In addition to its mistaken policies, the country has experienced an unprecedented phenomenon in our history. Although it is true that El Salvador has never been free of corruption, during this past decade corruption reached intolerable levels. It reached levels of international notoriety because of the cases of corruption that existed. This was particularly the case of corruption against the state treasury to the detriment of health, housing, and education services for the people.

Thus we have seen [words indistinct] Conara [National Commission for Reconstruction]. Conara is a program that takes the benefit of infrastructures to rural communities, very often the poorest areas. A short while back we saw the case of the INDEP [National Government Employee Pension Institute]. The INDEP manages the funds of government employees, individuals who have made sacrifices throughout their lives as government employees to have savings to guarantee that when they retire they will have an income to live on. The INDEP case has affected those government employees' funds, which were intended to guarantee some degree of future well- being for them.

The ANDA an institution that supplies water to thousands of Salvadorans, was also sacked. The same thing happened at the MOP [Public Works Ministry], and there are cases like the Earthquake League, which at this time is still the subject of complaints by many people because it had announced that the country was prepared to contribute to the reconstruction following the earthquake, but it never came through.

All of these things, Salvadorans, are factors that indicate why our country is faced with economic stagnation, not to say an economic regression. As I was saying, it is not only these policies when they are used in conjunction with efforts to destroy terrorism that have caused our problems. We must calmly sit down and think about how to overcome this crisis. This is what we should do because we definitely cannot continue in the crisis.

At the last meeting of presidents in Nicaragua, for the first time the topic of economic development in our region, in our Central American countries, was introduced. Thus, we should feel satisfied that at this same meeting all of the presidents for the first time accepted the challenge of being responsible for economic management. All of us—each and every Central American president—have no other option than to use this program of economic adjustment to prevent the deterioration of the economies and to halt this retrogression. We must do whatever is necessary to establish the foundations for the beginning of our countries' development. A!' of us, without any distinction whatsoever, supported the implementation of economic adjustment programs to make Central America a developing region in the near future.

It is also surprising to see how other countries, which perhaps do not have the same problems that El Salvador has, are faced with much more dramatic problems, (?probably) because of policies that I would describe as irresponsible and demagogic. They do nothing but complicate the situation for the governments that are now assuming office.

We have seen the example of Argentina, for instance, which had lived amid great irresponsibility on economic matters. Today its president is facing great problems while trying to implement an adjustment program. In Brazil, the new president who has just assumed power in that country, Mr. Collor de Mello, has had to adopt drastic measures that cannot even be understood here at this juncture. Eighty percent of all the bank deposits of Brazilian citizens have been frozen. This is tantamount to saying that, if someone had 100 colones in a savings account here, the government would only allow him to withdraw 20 colones and would tell him: I will hold the other 80 for you until we have passed through the crisis.

These are dramatic situations. In Nicaragua, for instance, during a conversation with Dona Violeta Chamorro, she told me that she was somewhat disheartened at seeing the economic and social situation the Sandinist government was leaving her in Nicaragua. The inflation there is 1,700 percent a year and the Nicaraguan currency is constantly—daily I would say—suffering devaluations, and the purchasing power of Nicaraguans is also eroding. Even though she was not a direct participant in the talks we held at the meeting, she is also conscious of the need for us to act responsibly in this regard.

However, there is one point I want to make very clear at this time. It is that all of the Central American presidents who joined in this agreement believe that it is vitally important that this sacrifice that our countries and our people must make has to be shared equitably. It is not possible to make a single sector bear the full burden of the sacrifices required by these critical situations. We have reached the conclusion that during the next meeting, which will be held during the second quarter of the year, [words indistinct] how we can enable our Central American peoples to share this sacrifice equitably and not burden only one sector. Unfortunately, the lower-income sectors are the ones that bear the biggest burden in this case.

However, I feel that we Salvadorans must not wait for the coming meeting of presidents. We want to get a bit of a headstart on this plan of the Central American presidents. As of this moment, we wish to invite the private sector, for one thing, and the labor sector through the democratic labor organizations too, to develop an awareness of our reality and to analyze what we must responsibly do to solve the crisis. It is best that we reach an agreement about the need to equitably allocate the sacrifices we must all make. Equitably means that those who have more must endure more sacrifices and that those who have less must endure fewer sacrifices. We want a dialogue to be carried out between the government and our country's social sectors in order to look for our own solutions and to present to the meeting of presidents in Guatemala experiences that have already been tested in our country.

In addition, Salvadorans, we feel that the situation requires us to adopt measures as of this moment. For this reason, we have been working for three weeks through the National Minimum Wage Council [Consejo Nacional del Salario Minimum] to increase the minimum wage in our country. It has not been changed for over two years, and we think that it is a matter of justice to change the salary, particuarly those of the lower-income groups.

I am pleased to announce today that on 6 April I signed a decree increasing the minimum-wage scale, which is the result of a unanimous vote among the sectors represented on the National Minimum Wage Council. It is the first time in history, at least in our time, that the Council has unanimously resolved to increase El Salvador's minimum wage. This decree will go into effect as of 16 April—in other words, starting on the second pay period in April.

These will be the increases in the different areas: In San Salvador, for indusrtry, commerce, services, etcetera, from 18 colones per day to 21 colones per day. In the remaining municipalities of the country, from 17 colones to 20 colones per day. In the farming sector, for workers age 16 amd older, regardless of sex, from 10 colones to 11.50 colones per day; for workers under age 16, from 9 colones to 10.50 colones per day, and for all partially incapacitated workers, regardless of their age, from 9 colones to 10.50 colones also.

I would like to call from this very moment on our friends in the business sector, in private enterprise, to display solidarity toward those who today, more than ever, need the solidarity of those of us who have something. This salary increase should not create a wave of uncontrolled price increases; it should not be used as an excuse [by businessmen] to increase their incomes.

I am aware—and will not debate the fact—that a salary increase will have an impact on the cost of our products. However, I believe that we, the Salvadoran businessmen, must display solidarity and contribute to preventing this crisis from being transferred only to those who receive a salary to live on. It is our duty to do so.

Although it is true that under other circumstances the salary increase would imply increased incomes, we must see that a cost-of-living increase would mean that we would be going after the income of those salaried workers. That is why today I have come here to ask you to be aware of the nation's reality and to help absorb this sacrifice. Let us display solidarity with those who need it today. I am sure that in the future you will be abundantly rewarded.

Of course, I am sure that there are many businesses, especially the small- and medium-sized businesses, which will not be able to absorb the entire additional cost of this sacrifice. Let us make a sacrifice; if we must raise prices, the increases should be the least possible so that we will not affect those who today may feel a little respite from the current situation. Let us not take that away from them through exaggerated and uncontrolled price increases.

Finally, I do not want to leave out the government employees. The situation with them is a little more complicated, but at a recent Council of Ministers, we found a few mechanisms that could prove helpful to government employees. First of all, we will make use of the austerity program whereby vacancies left during this term will not be filled, in order to promote employees by steps; to promote government employees who have the ambition to raise their status. Thus, if a first-level secretary position is vacated, and a second-level secretary has done a good job, she can be promoted to the first-level position. This escalated promotion system is a way to increase income. This is one small thing that we can do.

We have also decided to standardize salaries in the government sector or, in other words, the central government. I am referring to the ministries, to all sectors of the executive branch that are not autonomous or semi-autonomous institutions. I found total disorder in the government's salary scale. I believe that through the procedure used at the Public Works Ministry and through efforts to clean up the handling of the government's wage scale, we can help many government employees.

The procedure at the Public Works Ministry is almost over. Estimates indicate that approximately 70 percent of that ministry's employees will receive a salary increase. Of course, I hope that just as there is total disorder in the Public Works Ministry's wage scale, that other ministries will learn from that problem, and that through this mechanism—setting 1 June as a goal—we will be able to standardize the salaries of government employees, which will mean a small additional income, more in some cases than others, but a larger income in the end for government employees.

Our government has made an effort to spend less, especially since it knows that there is no money to be spent. I am pleased to say that during the first quarter of the year, we have spent less of the national budget than was approved by the honorable Legislative Assembly, less than was scheduled or budgeted to be spent. This means that, to some extent, if we continue using the budget this way, we will save a little money, which I hope will mean an increased number of government employees in the future.

Of course, we cannot use one quarter as an index to make a decision, because our decisions would be somewhat demagogic and irresponsible. We must be sure that the funds spent throughout the months are less than were budgeted in order to economize, which will allow us —I hope and God willing—to also bring a little incentive to El Salvador's government employees.

As a matter of fact, we have been greatly pleased to hear the public works minister praise the manner in which the workers of his ministry are responding to the challenge to serve the Salvadoran society in that area. This is why we have been able to see roads improved, highways expanded, and a series of works being executed to bolster our infrastructure. We want the example of the Public Works Ministry to be an example for all of us public employees. We must serve the people, and we can do so by working harder, producing more and rendering more and better services to the Salvadoran people.

Of course, we will also ask the workers of the private sector to make the effort, which I am sure the Salvadoran businessmen will accept, in order to allow the lower-income groups to endure fewer sacrifices. This also entails the reward that a greater effort by the workers will result in greater production, and this greater production will mean more benefits for our country. It will mean exporting more, stabilizing our country's currency, and depending less on foreign countries.

Although it is true that our country has not reached the dramatic crisis that Nicaragua or Argentina or Brazil have reached, we have accepted dependence to a great extent. Were it not for the generous assistance of friendly countries, particularly the United States, the picture would be different. However, we feel that we have the capacity to stand on our own feet. We know that this is a battle cry of the Salvadoran people and that they are characteristically hard-working. These are the characteristics we must all exhibit this Easter week. We must all work to extricate our country from the crisis.

Salvadorans, I would like to announce other measures besides the salary hikes. Perhaps some of you already know about them, but we feel that they must be known by all so we will all know what efforts we must make and how we must act to keep the very needy sectors from bearing the full burden. We must thank the National Assembly for having approved the law incorporating the retirement payments and pensions [jubilaciones y pensiones] payable by the state into the National Institute of Government Employee Pensions (INPEP). This will allow all persons who are receiving pensions or retirement payments amounting to ludicruous sums like 75 or 80 colones per month to receive a minimum of 500 colones. This way we can even help those who have virtually no possibility of receiving a higher income attain higher degrees of well-being once more.

Regarding the production sector, particularly in the countryside, the line for the refinancing of overdue balances of the farming sector is now ready at the banks. We think the farming sector must begin producing the way it did in the past. Let not a single inch of our territory fail to be cultivated for the benefit of the Salvadoran people. This line of credit will allow farmers who have an overdue debt at a bank to go there, repay it, and become creditworthy again. Through the [word indistinct] credits already approved by the Central Bank, he may work again. He may till the earth again and allow our country to have plenty of food and items to export.

Regarding the reformed sector—the cooperatives—a mechanism under which the cooperatives in the reformed sector will again be solvent at the banks is ready to be set in motion.

This debt has been accumulating, many times not because of the peasants' fault, but because of the mismanagement that occurs when a source of production is collectivized. That refinancing will be long term, at the same rate of interest as that earned by the agrarian reform bonds. In that way they can again go to the banks, which can serve them, and in that way the land of the reform sector can again be used to produce for the benefit of our people.

We have also experienced an increase in the cost of medicine, which is greatly affecting our people. On this occasion, we are pleased to be able to say that thanks to the work of the Economy Ministry and to the goodwill shown thus far by the distributors of pharmaceutical products in some national laboratories, we are devising a plan so that not only will the price of medicine be stabilized in the country, but we will also be able to make a joint government - private sector effort. In this way, we will achieve price stabilization, including an initial reduction in the current price lists of medicines. We believe that these sectors are beginning to realize the solidarity that must exist with the Salvadoran people who need it the most at this time. With the goodwill shown by them, as well as by all of us, we must overcome this crisis in order to have a better future in the coming months.

Last of all, Salvadorans, I would like to send a message to the political parties. Many have criticized us, internally and externally, regarding our participation in the peace process of our country. Up to this moment, or before 4 April, the government had promised the UN secretary general not to divulge the partial agreements that were reached to reinitiate the dialogue process. We were criticized, but we were not taken into consideration. Now you can see that the 4 April Geneva agreement did have the participation of the political parties and social forces in our country. That is why I want to invite the political parties again so that we will not politicize the peace topic. Peace is a desire of the Salvadoran people, and we are all duty bound to work for peace in our country.

I invite you so that next week, following the Holy Week vacation, we can meet here at the presidential house. You will all receive invitations to that meeting. Please attend with the desire to work for the benefit of peace. We have said to no end that we do not want victors or vanquished. What all of us Salvadorans must do is achieve peace. We must all work together, not only the political parties, but all the Salvadoran people. We must not promote any more violence. We must not promote disturbances. We must not promote all of that which now confronts our society. This is the time to seek reconciliation in Salvadoran society, to seek unity, so that through the unity of the Salvadoran people we can find peace.

The government of the Republic is willing to make every effort to secure peace. We hope that all of you, especially now that we must get closer to God, will think of how we can aid in securing peace in El Salvador. It is not provoking, it is not destroying, and it is not generating violence or confrontation. It is by meeting, working together, and having from the beginning internal peace, so that later, the internal peace of all the Salvadorans will irradiate peace in our nation.

Salvadorans, may the Holy Week vacations not only serve for meditation, but also for some happiness, some recreation, in the company of your families. May you enjoy your vacations. On returning may we all take the necessary precautions so that we all return safe and sound to our homes and again resume our daily activities after the week of peace. May God bless you all and may you enjoy your vacation.

Colonel Vargas Appointed to Dialogue Commission

PA0804034390 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 7 Apr 90 p 51

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade with headquarters in San Miguel, was officially appointed yesterday to form part of the Dialogue Commission that is scheduled to meet with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leader by 15 May, at the latest, in a place yet to be determined. Initially, it was said that the meeting might be held in Mexico City.

Official sources said yesterday that the commission was already formed, and it is the same one that attended the previous meetings. It was confirmed that Vargas will represent the Army.

Meanwhile, when questioned by reporters, the military chief said he was aware of the role he was playing at this moment. Vargas also said he supports President Alfredo Cristiani since he was elected president in democratic elections, and, therefore, he represents all Salvadorans.

"We guarantee the Salvadoran people that regardless of all this, we will continue our struggle without any geographical limitations against those who violate the established order," he said.

"Peace and security are indispensable. We know that we need peace, but peace must be based on the law, justice, and a respect for the institutions. We feel that all efforts have to be made for peace, and that peace must be based on the security, honor, and sorrow of the Salvadoran people. We must all participate in the achievement of this goal, and this participation implies defending the political and legal institutions as well as abiding by the constitution and the laws," the military chief concluded.

Interview With FMLN Commander, Part II

PA0604143990 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0039 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Second of four-part interview with Eduardo Sancho Colomba, alias Commander Ferman Cienfuegos,

member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command on 4 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, let us now continue with the second part of the interview: We are talking about the model we pursue. Comrade Herbert of the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front sent us the following question: You have written articles and spoken about the democratic republic and the pluralist democracy in the country. We want to begin this second part of the interview by asking you if it is worth 10 years of war, 70,000 deaths, and many crippled persons in order to lead to elections, as in any other country, and even run the risk of losing the elections like the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. That is the question sent by Comrade Herbert.

[Sancho] On behalf of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], it is great that the fighters who are militants and supporters of the FMLN ask such important questions as Comrade Herbert asked. We are willing to continue answering these difficult questions during these programs, and I believe we must motivate people. This radio station is motivating people to ask public questions, and we must not fear a debate.

We must have public debates to explain our thoughts to our people. We feel that we have been struggling for 20 years—that is, 10 years of bloodshed in armed struggle plus 10 years of another type of preparation. In 20 years of armed struggle, how could we change the correlation of forces of the military dictatorship? These 20 years of struggle have opened the doors to democracy. Democracy is the great goal and the great political achievement.

We—specifically the FMLN, that is—must never forget that we have been fighting since the beginning in order to help the majority of the people. In other words, we were born with a project, and we are using the armed struggle. We feel that it is a great achievement of not only the FMLN but of the people that very shortly we will be living in a true demcoracy. This is something similar to the achievements of the FSLN, which managed to open a democratic process, in spite of losing the elections. [Words indistinct] that the FMLN became one of the main forces of change in the country. Since it became a force of political, social, and military change, it changed the correlation of the political and military forces in order to dismantle the dictatorship and prepare to assemble the democratization process in the near future.

We think this is the first great achievement of the war. In other words, all wars have a political objective [words indistinct] that we have achieved a strategic objective which is that of paving the way for the process of democratization [words indistinct] in a true democracy. Democracy in El Salvador will truly be a revolution now. We feel that the fact a 50-year-old military dictatorship begins to yield and dismantle—or at least, the process of dismantling will begin in the next few years—is a great victory for the majority of Salvadorans. Actually, the history of democratic life is not a [words indistinct] but that was achieved in a program of the nation.

In other words, let us take into consideration that all of these sacrifices—these 70,000 dead, the bloodshed, the wounded, and the cripples—are being shared by the FMLN with the democratic and people's sectors. This is a contribution we are making to the fatherland [words indistinct] that we do not obey [words indistinct]. We are thinking about the project of the nation and, therefore, we are proud [words indistinct] for democracy, and the revolution.

[Reporter] Nonetheless, many of the FMLN fighters and leaders dreamed that someday the FMLN would completely take over and destroy the Armed Forces and the state organization in order to establish a model of revolution similar to the Cuban model. Some then say that, since the FMLN could not achieve the great goals, it will settle for the lesser ones.

[Sancho] [Words indistinct] Salvadoran revolution project called for all sectors to be involved [words indistinct] and this is reflected in the FMLN's [word indistinct] membership. The FMLN's Army consists primarily of peasants. However, the FMLN includes workers, peasants, the middle class, and intellectuals; even businessmen have died for our cause. We can mention a businessman who died...

[Reporter interrupts] Enrique Alvarez.

[Sancho] Enrique Alvarez Cordoba, a Salvadoran businessman who died for the fatherland. In other words, even businessmen have given their lives for this national project. We should explain what we are committed to and fighting for. We are committed to national democracy, improvement of the economy, and the wellbeing of the masses.

We are struggling under the slogan [words indistinct]; those are European models that have never wokred in El Salvador. This was part of the discussion. We must realize that a democratic society must strike a balance of power between the interests of the [word indistinct] and the interests of the masses.

The democratic project cannot [words indistinct] for example we cannot (?annihilate) the entire Army, because part of the Army is popular; it is part of the people. We [words indistinct] say that in El Salvador the democratic project cannot involve a dictatorship of a small group or a single party; in other words [words indistinct] is not a FMLN dictatorship imposed on a majority of Salvadorans.

The FMLN project [words indistinct] national project and this cannot be achieved through dictatorships because this would be tantamount to reinstalling a military dictatorship with different symbols and a different flag [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] why did Eastern European countries suddenly collapse?

[Sancho] [Words indistinct] socialist European countries are actually experiencing a new social revolution. To carry out a revolution in quote, very civilized countries, unquote, multi-party system [words indistinct]. That is what has happened in European countries. One party tried to impose a partial program or a program of a small group on the masses [passage indistinct] of these single party socialist models failed to develop an absolute democracy. This was the structural failure of such societies. The armies supported the people—this is important and Latin American Armies and the Salvadoran Army in particular should take note of this—the armies of those countries have supported the democratization processes of socialism.

Their systems offered social justice, but not political democracy. We are now seeing a multi-party political and democratic revolution that obviously does not look much like the democracy [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, from what you have said, should we understand or infer that Leninism is no longer viable, that Leninism is not the solution to lead the social struggle?

[Sancho] European Leninism was a creation that [words indistinct] that has lasted nearly a century. We can say that Marxist-Leninist thought was the outstanding expression of a entire trend of thought for a century that influenced and contributed toward changes in scientific methodology. In other words, Marxism-Leninism is a science; it is a method to analyze reality. This is indisputable. It is a science that has made great contributions toward humankind.

However, like anything created by human beings, Marxism has a limit in time and space. For example, Leninism no longer explains facts; Leninism persists because of what was written in the classics. Therefore, it no longer explains, for instance, the new stage of imperialism. In other words, it no longer explains the new phenomena of the technological revolution and matters that deal with international capitalism. Those principles no longer provide explanations. This means they have to be renewed. New research must be conducted on phenomena and the realities of the world. This can also be applied to Latin America. In other words, the revolutionary trend of thought, the [words indistinct] study this science [words indistinct], but it has some limitations. Therefore, it is necessary to search for a new political order and new concepts to better explain realities. This is now the role of Marxism, because there are some renegades who believe Leninism [words indistinct] when Leninism actually changed thought. What is needed now is a new revolution of thought, which may not be classical Leninism. It can be another type of thought.

It is important that all revolutionaries, combatants who like to read and study the sciences, consider science to be a revolutionary instrument and not a religion. They should also bear in mind what has happened in Europe—too many saints had been created and they all fell from grace [words indistinct]. There was a sort of religious, dogmatic, and sectarian thought, and when saints fall, there are upheavals in thought and social aspects. When saints fall, people have many doubts [words indistinct] the left-wing movement. One must not fear such a crisis, because it is precisely that, a crisis [words indistinct] very religous and fanatic.

[Reporter] Do you consider the FMLN to have also fallen into that religious fanaticism?

[Sancho] We think so. We believe there was too much fanaticism in the FMLN; we almost looked like a fanatical sect. However, the process of internal ideological struggle over the past 10 years has allowed us to modernize and renovate our thoughts in a very rapid and surprising way. By updating and renewing our thoughts we have improved FMLN activity and its direction [words indistinct] new and modern thought. Thus, any dogmatic, religious, fanatic, or sectarian remains are being cleaned out.

[Reporter] Commander, talking about Europe and the influence it has had in El Salvador, have you realized that the elections held in those countries [words indistinct] the Communist parties in almost all the countries—except Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia—and the right-wing parties have won? The case of the GDR is the most surprising of all, and Nicaragua is another phenomenon—the Sandinist National Liberation Front also lost. Let us suppose that the conditions are created in El Salvador for a democratic process like the one in Nicaragua. How would the FMLN.... [corrects himself] How do you think the FMLN would fare in democratic elections, taking into consideration the leftist ideological crisis?

[Sancho] We know that—at the international level—the left has been shaken and shocked by the latest political and electoral results. [Words indistinct] what happened is that all the schemes and dogmas have collapsed. Referring to the European countries' electoral results, we have to bear in mind that they are pluralist and the socialist development model will include center, leftist, and rightist positions.

In other words, we think that what occurred in European countries is nothing but the shifting aside of traditional Communist parties through elections. Other political parties have assumed control—but following the tendency toward a socialist development model. This is a simple situation and there is no need to feel frightened. [Words indistinct] but every effort is made to build a new socialist democracy following socialist development guidelines and as a result of the crisis in socialism.

We see that this is [word indistinct]. The same thing happened in Poland. The Solidarity Movement was considered a CIA organization given its dogma and fanaticism, but events have proven that the Solidarity Movement is a patriotic, nationalist movement in Poland, and [words indistinct] socialist model in Poland.

[Words indistinct] envy, and I imagine that the same will happen in the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

Referring to El Salvador's case, we believe that the conditions have yet to be given for our participation in the elections.

[Reporter] I was talking about the FMLN's participation in 1991 [words indistinct].

[Sancho] [Words indistinct] democratic positions in our country. However, we can make contributions [words indistinct] and the people in general [words indistinct] democratization. We can help the people struggle to elect deputies and mayors in 1991—but the FMLN will obviously not participate (words indistinct]. We will participate in elections once the war is over, once the negotiations have ended, and once the conditions are given. [Words indistinct] the FMLN could be an influential party, but we would rather participate [words indistinct]. If we participate in elections, we will not polarize the society; we will seek to unite the nation and defeat the fascists.

[Reporter] Commander, talking about elections, the FMLN will certainly not be able to participate as an armed group in the elections—either in 1991 or 1994. M-19 [19 April Movement] has just laid down its weapons in Colombia. This has created uncertainty among our fighters. What will happen with the FMLN weapons? [Words indistinct] the weapons?

[Sancho] It is important what we previously said. A 20-year armed struggle opened the road to a true democracy. The FMLN is an important factor in demanding changes and the democratization [words indistinct]. The FMLN's weapons guarantee a democratization process. Without the FMLN's weapons, all we can expect is a fascist manhunt against the people. Thus, the FMLN has never proposed or discussed its disarmament because it is unacceptable. We have proposed our participation in the political struggle—but within a process that must include negotiation, democratization, and demilitarization. We have also stated that the FMLN's [word indistinct] if the conditions are given, and this does not imply laying down our weapons or demobilization.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] demobilization?

[Sancho] Demobilization does not imply a turnover of weapons or a surrender. Demobilization is part of a political concept for returning to civilian life within democracy [words indistinct] not the same as the demobilization of the contras, which were a band of counterrevolutionary [word indistinct] and assassins. They certainly have to turn in their weapons. The contras must turn in their weapons, which must be destroyed in a public ceremony.

FMLN Commander on Nicaragua, Elections

PM0604111490 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Apr 90 p 8

[Bertrand de la Grange dispatch: "The FMLN's Goodwill"]

[Text] Perquin—"The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is struggling for peace and democracy," a banner proclaimed at the entrance to the village of Perquin, capital of the "liberated zone" held by the guerrillas in the north of Morazan district, near the border with Honduras. Groups of rebels were strolling round the streets which were paved with uneven slabs. Others were listening to the radio, lounging under the porches of the houses—most abandoned—despite the gradual return of the inhabitants over the past year. The FMLN guerrillas have secured several days of well deserved rest and some were taking advantage of that to visit relatives. Is this merely a period of rest after the long marches from the Pacific coast or is it preparation for a new offensive like the one which made Alfredo Cristiani's government tremble last November?

"The army is spreading the rumor of an offensive, but we think that the time is right to negotiate," Commander Gustavo Amaya said, "because the international context is favorable and we are witnessing a widespread desire for peace in El Salvador." Does not the Sandinistas' election defeat in Nicaragua weaken the FMLN's position? "We were personally devastated by the election result," he replied. "But it does not affect us in the logistical sphere, because we have other clandestine channels for our arms supplies, including channels crossing the borders of enemy countries. The army and some sectors of Arena (the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance—LE MONDE editor's note) are seriously mistaken if they think they can defeat us."

As a goodwill gesture, the FMLN has suspended sabotage which "affects the population" since 16 March, especially operations against public transportation, telecommunications, and businesses. "We are continuing sabotage against bridges, cotton harvests, and especially against the electricity system to force the army scatter its troops," Commander Gustavo explained, when he received us in one of the many houses in Perquin half destroyed by the army's air raids in the early eighties. This former agriculture student, son of a family of prosperous businessmen, happily wore a Batman T-shirt under his impeccable uniform.

"The United States," he said, "has changed its attitude. Following our November offensive, it realized that we were stronger than it thought. All it had achieved in six years had just collapsed, particularly the so-called democratization of the army and its professionalization. It is now reduced to demanding the arrest of the officers responsible for the murder of the Jesuits. We have managed to spark off a debate in Washington, and the State Department has adopted a stance favorable to negotiations." The FMLN has apparently also changed

its attitude because, according to Commander Amaya, "it is in favor of a mixed economy with a strong private sector, with the state playing the role of mediator to guarantee the satisfaction of social needs." The insurgents will be prepared to take part in the elections to defend their program provided, they say, that they take place in the same conditions as in Nicaragua, in the presence of international observers. What if the FMLN loses the elections? "It is the risk we take when we abandon the armed struggle and enter the political process," Commander Amaya replied. Silvia, barely 16 years old with the face of a child, is less political than her leader and has not yet received the new "guidelines." "If we lose," she said, "we will take up arms again...."

FMLN Attacks in Suchitoto, 13 Casualties

PA0704035890 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0016 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] It has been reported that on 6 April at 0230, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas attacked positions that were being guarded by units of the Lightning Battalion of Military Detachment No. 5 in Las Guaras Bridge, located on the highway that runs from San Martin to Suchitoto, and in San Pedro Perulapan, Cuscatlan Department. The FMLN guerrillas attacked four positions with rifle fire and rocket launchers.

After 40 minutes of attacks, we had taken over three positions and forced the fourth one to flee. In this attack, we inflicted 13 casualties on the enemy. The casualties were inflicted in the area of Suchitoto, while the war materiel wgs seized in San Pedro Perulapan in Cuscatlan Department.

We inflicted 13 casualties in the area of Suchitoto, including a sub-sergeant and a wounded corporal. In the area of the Las Guaras Bridge, we seized five M-16 rifles, one M-79 rocket launcher, 8,200 cartridges, 38 grenades for M-79 rocket launchers, 11 knapsacks, and other war materiel.

We also report that Comrade William heroically fell in combat, struggling to tear down the fascist wall and urging the fatherland to unite for democracy.

Guatamala

Defense Minister on URNG, Peace Talks

PA0704032690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said today that the Guatemalan guerrillas are "about to disappear" and that they "have paid a high price" for the attacks they have launched in and near the capital.

Gen. Gramajo told ACAN-EFE that the guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) have paid a "high price" for their "daring attacks" because they have not only lost men but have been "militarily weakened."

Regarding the Oslo talks, Gen. Gramajo noted that there is a group of guerrillas within the URNG, whom he described as "fanatics," who "continue defending their negative position." However, he added that "there is another group of guerrillas within the URNG trying to resume their normal lives."

Gen. Gramajo also said that a large number of guerrillas are trying to resume a normal life. He added that "large numbers of guerrillas have deserted" the URNG and surrendered to the Army. Later on, he said, the Army "hires them" because it fears for its security.

The defense minister added that there are three groups within the URNG: One group "wants to sacrifice their lives." Another group is pragmatic; "they have expressed their opinions at Oslo." The third group of guerrillas are deserting the armed struggle.

Regarding the talks with the URNG leadership, the defense minister stressed that the army "supports the dialogue because it is tired of the bloodshed." He added that he will be present when the government meets the URNG's leaders.

Gen. Gramajo, who will retire next July and leave the ministry, said that the Army is coming to the end of a long period of self- examination and moving toward "a more professional and stable way of doing things."

Honduras

President Suspends Activities Because of Illness

PA0604171790 Teugicalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Report by Julio Armando Valdes]

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero had planned a press conference over a national radio and television network for last night to report on the presidential summmit meeting in Managua, Nicaragua. However, at approximately 1730 yesterday, it was learned that on medical instructions, President Callejas would have to suspend the news conference. The Press Secretariat immediately issued an official communique, which was read by newsman Nahum Valladares y Valladares, minister-counsellor of information of the government palace.

[Begin Valladares recording] The Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hereby issues the following official communique:

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero is afflicted with laryngotracheobronchitis, which has severely

affected his health and has made it necessary for him to suspend his formal activities at the presidential residence.

In light of the foregoing, the news conference that the president was scheduled to hold tonight over a national radio and television network is hereby suspended.

On the strict instructions of his personal physician, the president of the republic will rest until his health is improved, and he will handle state affairs from his residence, canceling meetings scheduled for Friday, 6 April, in his office.

Tegucigalpa, Central District, 5 April 1990

Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic [end recording]

Nahum Valladares y Valladares also provided details regarding the origin of this illness, which the doctors called laryngotracheobronchitis.

[Begin recording] [Valladares, in progress]...inform you that the president of the republic, at approximately 1340, called us to say that he was feeling very ill. All morning, from 0700, he had been meeting with the cabinet and later with directors of the media, and then with certain ministers, and this required an effort that affected his health because he had been working continuously, providing explanations about the presentation of the country's general budget at the National Congress today.

The effort by President Callejas has caused the state of his health to further deteriorate, because when he returned from the presidential summit in Managua, Nicaragua, he was already suffering from a severe attack of the flu. The continuous effort, and possibly the air conditioning and the change of climate, all affected him, and by noon, the president told us that it would be impossible for him to fulfill his scheduled commitments at the presidential palace.

Nevertheless, planning to be at the government palace at 1700, the president summoned the members of the cabinet to be present in the conference room of the government palace. However, his doctor advised him to stay at home, and therefore, on the instructions of his personal doctor, he also suspended the scheduled press conference.

At 1700, the president still intended, not to go to the cabinet meeting, but to attend the news conference, but the doctor recommended that he rest.

[Reporter] Are the doctor's instructions temporary, or could they be extended until Monday or Tuesday [9 or 10 April]?

[Valladares] Well, in a situation of this kind, the doctors recommend...[changes thought] We have been in contact with some specialists and they told us that the president will have to rest for about three days.

[Reporter] We understand that when he went to Nicaragua he was already having trouble with his throat.

[Valladares] Yes, from the time he left Tegucigalpa he was having a severe attack of the flu. He went to Nicaragua to attend the presidential summit. You know how tremendously hot it was in both the capital of Nicaragua and in Montelimar, but the president went to all the meetings. He also returned to Tegucigalpa very late. He arrived at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Force Base at about 1830, and from that day, the president has been feeling ill. Nevertheless, he went to the presidential office on Monday [2 April]. You saw him here, attending to affairs of state, but by yesterday he was already having bronchial trouble, and at noon today his doctor recommended that he rest. [end recording]

Specifically, the president's meetings scheduled for today with various organized sectors of the country have been postponed or canceled.

Congress Approves Armed ONUCA Presence

PA0604222290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1928 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Apr (DPA)—The Honduran National Congress has approved the presence of military members of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) for a six-month period.

The decision, which was adopted by the Honduran legislative chamber after an initiative from the government, stated that the ONUCA activities will be aimed at demobilizing the contras stationed in Honduran territory.

The ONUCA's presence will be basically concentrated along the border with Nicaragua where the anti-Sandinists operate.

The decision was adopted given that Venezuelan soldiers will soon arrive in the country and will be under the ONUCA's mandate. The soldiers will carry defensive weapons and will be in charge of receiving the contras' weapons on 18 April, according to the schedule.

The Honduran Constitution states that the National Congress must approve the presence of foreign military members in the country. Congress also had to approve U.S. forces' presence in Honduras for joint military operations.

The ONUCA observers have been in the country for some time, but without weapons, and the legislative branch's approval was not necessary for their unarmed presence.

Government Dismisses 1,200 Public Employees

PA0704230990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government dismissed approximately 1,200

public employees in the last 24 hours within the framework of an "economic adjustment" program based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank recommendations.

The so-called blue broom—the color representing the ruling Liberal Party—swept away 976 employees in the communications, public works, and transportation ministries.

The "pink slips"—which contain the dismissal orders—were also distributed at the Customs, Civil Service General Directorate, Industrial Development Center, Finance Ministry, and National Congress.

Mass dismissals were authorized by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas before he went to Nicaragua to participate in the Seventh Central American presidential summit.

Unofficial sources revealed that there are approximately 3,500 additional dismissal orders that will be delivered in the next few days and that this situation has public employees in suspense, particularly those who are not members of the ruling party.

Honduras has an economically active population of approximately 2 million persons, of whom 30 percent are unemployed, 40 percent are underemployed, and only 30 percent have a steady income.

U.S. AID Criticized for Withholding Funds

PA0904011790 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 2 Apr 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Reward"]

[Text] The president the gringos set up in Panama had to go on a hunger strike for the Americans to release the aid they had promised him.

Though it is late, he has now received an installment on the first portion.

The same thing happened in Nicaragua, but they did not require a reminder from Violeta for her to receive what they promised to give her.

So Panama gets $420 million in aid for having undone Noriega, and Violeta receives a reward of $300 million for getting rid of the Sandinists.

Honduras had to first deal a "blow" for the Americans to reluctantly release a portion of what the gentlemen at the Agency for International Development (AID) had retained from last year.

AID owed Azcona $70 million, which it was its duty to release, but it retained those funds to turn them over to Callejas. AID will make an initial payment of only $40 million and will deliver the rest little by little throughout the rest of the year.

In other words, of the $147 million promised by AID, $70 million comes from last year, and the remaining $65 million was budgetted for this year, plus a few additional donations in basic grain and projects that were already planned.

Of course, so it will sound like a lot, AID says it is giving $147 million, when the only new funds will be the $65 million for this fiscal year, which is less than it had given in previous years.

Even so, $147 million is less than they gave Violeta, and much less than what they are giving Panama.

This confirms what I said: We are losing our importance. AID has turned its attention elsewhere.

However, $147 million is still something. We are not going to turn down such a large sum either. "Never look a gift horse in the mouth."

What we would like AID to clearly explain is that it is not giving, in exchange for "the unfair economic package," the large amount of aid that it is announcing, because $70 million had been approved for last year, and if it was not delivered it was because AID did not want to do so.

They should not have us, then, at those public-works inaugurations, making a great fuss over the laying of a cornerstone. They celebrate the initiation of a project, throw a party, and christen it when it is half done, and they reinaugurate it when they put a plaque on it.

This is what they are doing with the $147 million. They gave it, took it back, announced it, retained it, and approved it. They made us put together that "unfair economic package," and then approved the funds again. They confirmed them, signed them, and now they are releasing them with a medicine dropper.

However, the Chicago boys are pleased, and that is what matters. They must feel good over the negotiation. They must feel pleased with the congratulations they are receiving from the gringos at AID.

We all know that they behaved well. They did what was expected of them. They forced the people to take the laxative, even if the laxative meant a diarrhea of prices that no one can stop.

All in all, however, we must not be ungrateful to the Chicago boys and fail to recognize the effort they are making. Let us believe that even though that "Mexican tamale with chile sauce" will give the Honduran people indigestion, they cooked it in good faith.

They did it because they love the country. I only hope that they will not suffer the experience of the loving mother who loved her child so much that she hugged him to show her love and ended up suffocating him.

Nicaragua

Law To Continue Suit Against U.S. Approved

PA0804164390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1403 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The National Assembly has backed a law establishing that the new government must continue the suit that our country filed against the United States at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague.

During the heated debates at the assembly, Sandinist Deputy Domingo Sanchez, a.k.a. Chaguitillo, stated: The government of Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro must pressure the United States to pay, otherwise, we will harass that government, because it would be a lack of patriotism not to proceed to ask the U.S. Government to pay what it owes our people.

In addition, Julio Marenco, also an FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] representative, said that he did not trust that the majority of members of the new government would continue this suit because they were direct accomplices in the genocide against our people during the years of war, a war financed by the U.S. Government and carried out by paid mercenaries.

However, Dr. Carlos Tunnerman was more moderate in his participation in the debates. He explained the problem from the viewpoint of patriotism and national sovereignty. Let us listen to Tunnerman:

[Begin Tunnerman recording] This initiative is the result of a political decision. It is also a political option. Our option to permanently defend our national sovereignty and dignity. It is also an option that Nicaragua chose at the beginning of the revolution to follow a foreign policy that strictly adheres to the principles of international law. When Nicaragua went to the ICJ to sue the world's biggest power because of its aggression against our ports, it was setting an example of respect for international law.

Unfortunately, the United States, a country that contributed to the creation of the ICJ, decided to declare itself exempt from ICJ jurisdiction and thus appeared, before the eyes of the world, as an outlaw.

Nicaragua continued its suit and won the case. The ruling was favorable to Nicaragua by a large majority of ICJ magistrates. Subsequently, Nicaragua presented a document on the estimated damage explaining that we were not including the invaluable loss of lives, the wounded, and the disabled of the counterrevolutionary war. We noted that we were including all the damage caused by the U.S. aggression for so many years.

I said this was a political option because, in the future, a new government could have a different political option and thus decide to take another initiative or a different course.

However, with this law, we will be saying that Nicaragua has the right to that indemnification and that this indemnification is patrimony of the Nicaraguan people which could be used to rebuild our country. Consequently, that which the United States would be paying to Nicaragua is not alms, but merely a minute part of what the United States owes us as indemnification, once the ICJ establishes the amount of the damage. [end recording]

Chamorro Turns Down Humberto Ortega for Cabinet

PA0704033990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0209 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 6 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President- elect Violeta Chamorro today said that General Humberto Ortega, current defense minister and chief of the armed forces, will not be a part of her administration or continue in the Army.

She also said that none of the nine commanders who make up the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), in power since July 1979, will be a part of her government.

In brief remarks to ACAN-EFE at her residence, minutes after meeting with Costa Rican President-elect Rafael Calderon, Chamorro said 48-year-old Gen. Humberto Ortega, brother of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, will not remain in the Nicaraguan Armed Forces.

"He will not be a part of my government or remain in the Army in any capacity," stressed Chamorro, who will take office on 25 April.

A protocol signed on 27 March by representatives of the incoming and outgoing governments calls for the high-ranking commanders of the Armed Forces to resign from party positions and stop being active militants of the FSLN.

At the beginning of this week, Gen. Ortega said at the Montelimar beach resort on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, during the seventh Central American summit, that he was willing to resign from his party's leadership in order to remain in the Army as a professional military man.

Gen. Ortega's possible retention in the Nicaraguan Army has provoked a storm in Nicaragua, and there are even plans to hold a protest demonstration on 22 April.

The Workers Permanent Council (CPT), made up of four labor federations that supported Violeta Chamorro during the February elections, today announced a demonstration to protest the possibility that a top Sandinist official will remain in the new government.

Chamorro today met with the Costa Rican president-elect who is on a Central American tour to strenthen diplomatic and cooperation ties.

Calderon, after meeting with current President Daniel Ortega also, said that the transition in Nicaragua is "making remarkable progress" and that "democracy is spreading" in this country.

The president-elect has already visited Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. He will wrap up his tour in Panama tomorrow.

President Ortega on Importance of Peace Plan

PA0704165290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Statements by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega; place and date not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] ...the people of Central America are aware of the peace plan and they value it. A concerted effort is necessary among the political leaders, heads of government, and social and political forces of different ideologies, which confront one another in the field. A concerted peace effort must be made.

The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is talking with the Salvadoran Government with the UN's mediation. What is the result of the agreement reached in San Isidro de Coronado when we asked the UN to mediate between the FMLN and Salvadoran Government in a dialogue? The URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] is also discussing peace with the Guatemalan Reconciliation Commission.

Therefore, there is a concerted effort among forces that confront one another in the field. Of course, I would make an exception for certain contra sectors in Nicaragua, because there are contras who have accepted the peace plan, and others who have not. However, the peace plan is moving forward and, just as it is dependent on the Central American presidents, it also depends on the continued support and strengthening of Central America's people, political leaders, and rank and file.

I believe that Nicaragua's main problem is to disarm the contras. If they disarm, conditions will improve, and everything will run smoothly.

Demands Demobilization of Contras

PA0804151090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1336 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Statement by President of the Republic Commander Daniel Ortega; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The contras who have entered Nicaragua must demobilize, and those who have entered with another plan in mind, that is, to wage war, will be rejected by the people and the people's institutions tasked with defending the citizens' lives.

In this case, the Army would be obliged to assume this task, because it has been defending the country against the contras' attacks in violation of the cease-fire. There is undoubtedly a movement toward peace and the contras are increasingly more isolated here and abroad.

Nevertheless, we cannot ignore that there are contra groups that are interested in waging war and launching a large-scale offensive. This is why we cannot lower our guard; this is why the Nicaraguan people and the institution that the nation has tasked with defending the citizens' lives, which is the Sandinist People's Army, cannot lower their guard.

There are contras in region five who believe that the time has come to launch an offensive against the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the government. This move would have no political backing at home; it would be rejected. It would not have any international political backing, either.

They have their own ideas, but I have urged them to put them aside and disarm, which is the best thing they can do. They believe that the revolution has been weakened, and therefore, that they have reached power. That is, that the time has come for the counterrevolution to take power. They are thinking about taking power, but that is crazy.

They are disregarding the electoral process and the election results and are now thinking about taking power. That is crazy. Therefore, we must act with sufficient firmness to prevent these people from launching such plans and provoking bloodshed.

Obando y Bravo on Demobilization in Country

PA0804223890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2017 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Apr (DPA)—Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo stated today that the demobilization of the "contras" in Nicaragua is not considered in the recent "Toncontin" agreement signed in Honduras between the rebels and a delegation of the newly elected Nicaraguan Government.

The contras in Honduras and those in Nicaraguan territory are two different things," the cardinal said. He was a witness to the Toncontin agreement, which expressed the need for the rebels to demobilize before 20 April.

In his statement, the prelate said he did not know of the conditions set forth by rebel leader Oscar Sobalvarro, alias "Commander Ruben," to the effect that the contra demobilization will not be carried out until high-ranking officers of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) leadership are removed from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

"There is a commission conducting negotiations at this time. We took a step forward in Toncontin," Obando said, noting that the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] and the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] are the organizations that must oversee the demobilization of the "contras" and that "we only said hello to them."

Asked whether the "contras" are trying to pressure the new government to appoint them to positions in the

Armed Forces, the prelate limited himself to saying that "this must be resolved by Dona Violeta (Chamorro).

RN Demands Dismissal of EPS Military Leaders

PA0804012190 Paris AFP in Spanish 2052 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Apr (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN-Contras) today asked President-Elect Violeta de Chamorro to make "a formal commitment" to dismiss "the high-ranking military leadership" of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) as a condition for the demobilization of 10,000 guerrillas.

The response to that request is the main topic of the negotiations which began today in Tegucigalpa between the RN and representatives of Chamorro, Contra spokesman Alejandro Acevedo has announced.

The delegation representing the future government, made up of Roberto Ferrey and Leopoldo Navarro, had met previously with Spanish General Agustin Quesada, head of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), who is in charge of supervising the disarming of the insurgents. The ONUCA delegates and Chamorro's representatives discussed the disarming of the guerrillas who are based in Honduran territory, which must be done by before 25 April.

They also discussed the demobilization of the contras who remain in Nicaraguan territory—which represent the majority—and who must be relocated to security zones before they are disarmed.

Ferrey and Navarro also met with Nidia Duarte, a representative of the political military organization of the indigenous YATAMA [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole groups organization].

The RN position demanding the withdrawal of high-ranking EPS officers is contained in a letter sent on Friday night to Chamorro from Oscar Sobalvarro, alias Commander Ruben, leader of the guerrillas' negotiating commission.

"The RN insists that to achieve the effective demobilization of its forces, real guarantees must be given to protect its members during the entire demobilization process, including their reintegration into national life," the letter states, adding: "One of these guarantees must be the formal commitment on the part of the new government to dismiss the EPS leadership."

Sobalvarro states in the letter that those high-ranking officers "constitute a permanent factor of insecurity and lack of confidence, since the delivery of the RN weapons is an irreversible process that leaves the contras disarmed in the face of the Sandininist party and Army."

"It is essential to reiterate once more that the aforementioned does not signify in any manner that the RN is trying to replace Sandinism in the military structure," the letter explains.

In that sense, it welcomes as "good news" the announcement made in Managua that the current Defense Minister, General Humberto Ortega, will not remain in his position during the new administration.

Contras Report EPS Preparing Military Offensive

PA0804194890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)— The contras who have sought shelter in Honduras reported in Tegucigalpa today that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is preparing a military offensive prior to 25 April to "create a difficult climate of criticism against the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]."

The Sandinist offensive includes four Nicaraguan Departments, where the EPS has deployed "T-55" tanks, B-21 [122 mm] rocket launchers, and 120 mm cannons, the anti-Sandinist rebels maintained.

According to the contras, "no fewer than 20,000 soldiers," deployed in the Departments of Esteli, Jinotega, Chontales, and Zelaya—where there are about 6,000 armed anti-Sandinists—will participate in the operation.

The contra leadership said that they will not fall to the Sandinists provocations, seeking to "hinder the peaceful transition of power on 25 April" in which Violeta Chamorro will replace Daniel Ortega.

The contra combatants have been instructed to "avoid as much as possible any contact with the EPS," the rebels reported.

Various anti-Sandinist commanders and their advisers are meeting in Tegucigalpa with representatives of Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro and UN Observer Group [ONUCA] officials to discuss the incorporation of contras in Honduras to civilian life.

The meeting will conclude on 9 April, contra spokeman Alejandro Acevedo in Tegucigalpa told ACAN-EFE.

Defense Ministry Denies Report

PA0804224090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1734 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry denied today that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is preparing a military offensive before 25 April, the date the new government will assume office. This charge was made by contra spokesmen yesterday in Tegucigalpa.

A military source contacted by ACAN-EFE stated that "it is false" that the Army is preparing military actions against the rebels, "because in reality we are responsible for searching for reconciliation and the transfer (of presidential power) in relative peace."

According to the Defense Ministry spokesman, the "contras" are spreading such reports in Tegucigalpa "to

misinform, to confuse, and to keep from complying with the Toncontin (Honduras) and Montelimar (Nicaragua) agreements" on the demobilization of the contras, who are armed and financed by the United States.

According to the charge made by the "contras" in Tegucigalpa, the Sandinist offensive will take place in four departments of Nicaragua where they have deployed "T-55" tanks, "BM-21" multiple rocket launchers, and 120-mm cannons.

They added that "no less than 20,000 men," including 6,000 armed anti-Sandinists, have been deployed in the departments of Esteli, Jinotega, Chontales, and Zelaya.

The ranking "contra" command indicated that it will not be drawn into battles by "provocations" from the Sandinists, who seek "to hinder the peaceful transition of power on 25 April," in which Violeta Chamorro will succeed Daniel Ortega. The "contra" fighters have been instructed to "prevent, to the extent possible, any contact with the EPS," the rebel spokesmen stated.

The Defense Ministry spokesman denied also that two Army helicopters and two Army combat planes on 7 April fired indiscriminately on Los Mantequillos and La Frescura, 30 km from Muhan in the central department of Chontales.

Radio Corporacion, a private Managua radio station, citing reports it has received, stated today that the Sandinist aircraft staged the attacks at 1200 (1800 GMT) and 1400 (2200 GMT) in the mentioned regions.

Several "contra" commanders and their advisers are meeting this weekend in Tegucigalpa with representatives of Violeta Chamorro and officials of the UN Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA) to discuss the reintegration of the rebels in that country into civilian life.

FSLN Communique Urges Peace, Unity

PA0904143590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, in Managua on 9 April]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] hereby notifies the Nicaraguan people, the FSLN militants, and the international community that on 7 and 8 April, the FSLN National Directorate held a special meeting with the Sandinist Assembly and oustanding cadres of our organization to analyze and debate the implementation of the Protocol for Transfer of Power that was signed on 27 March 1990 between the transition teams appointed by President Daniel Ortega and President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, with His Eminence, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo serving as a witness. That protocol basically provides for the following:

1. The implementation of the agreement for the demobilization of the counterrevolutionary forces prior to 25 April 1990, as it was agreed to by the Central American presidents in Montelimar and supported by President-elect Violeta de Chamorro.

2. The respect for the integrity and professional nature of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and of the interior order forces, as well as their ranks, promotion rosters, and commands, according to the constitution and the laws of the republic.

3. The subordination of the Armed Forces to the president of the republic, its professional nature, the fact Armed Forces members in active service cannot serve in leadership positions in political parties, and the fact its activities will be ruled according to the economic situation of the country and to the Contadora and Central American presidents' agreements.

4. To create a framework of mutual security and confidence far removed from any acts of revenge or reprisal, and an atmosphere which urges respect for people's moral and physical integrity.

The FSLN considers these agreements fundamental in opening a true and lasting path toward peace and reconciliation in our fatherland. The FSLN National Directorate, the Sandinist Assembly, and the FSLN fully support these agreements and hope the government will comply with them in a responsible manner.

Nonetheless, the FSLN wants to advise the Nicaraguan people and its militancy of its deep concern over the attitudes shared by radical sectors of the UNO [National Opposition Union] and other spokesmen of the extreme right, with some chieftains of the counterrevolutionary wanting to ignore the validity of the abovementioned Protocol for Transfer.

These extremist positions seriously jeopardize the peace and stability of Nicaragua because they call for conditioning for the disarmament and demobilization of the counterrevolutionaries—who have never been part of any agreement—and questioning the integrity and stability of the military commands. The FSLN cannot accept this.

The FSLN urges all people to seek peace and to firmly reject these threats because if the agreements that were signed in a patriotic spirit by both parties are not adhered to, this will constitute an attack against the desire for peace and stability shared by all Nicaraguans and the international community.

The FSLN also urges all high-ranking leaders of the new government and groups to take a constructive stand in the face of these extremist and negative attitudes which run cunter to an orderly and peaceful transfer of power. Managua, 9 April 1990, Year of Peace and Reconstruction.

Chamorro Adviser Holds News Conference

PA0804170790 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2305 GMT 5 Apr 90

[News conference by Antonio Lacayo, chief of the presidential transfer team and adviser of President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, with unidentified reporters at the International Press Club in Managua on 5 April; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Lacayo] ...the election of any authorities, as ordered by the Supreme Electoral Council, can only be done inside the Armed Forces within the framework of the electoral law. It also defines the will of the new government to respect the integrity and professionalism of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the forces of public order, according to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic that are now in effect.

Obviously, within that framework, there are many alternatives. Concerning your question, the first thing to be defined here would obviously be for General [Humberto] Ortega to resign his leadership within the party and his active role in the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. If he does not do this, he could not continue to be in the EPS nor could any other officer or soldier continue to be active in the FSLN.

Second, if he resigned to qualify for this new apolitical and professional Army, it would up to Dona Violeta to decide if she allows Gen. Ortega to remain in the Army or if she dismisses him or retires him. Obviously, she will have to make this decision in light of what is deemed more advisable for the future of the country. It is not an easy decision. It is a very delicate decision, and she will have to make this decision within the framework of the commitments and programs of the UNO [National Opposition Union] government. That is what she promised during her campaign, and—more than anything else—I believe she did this thinking of the country's future. There are no other agreements hidden behind the protocol.

[Reporter] Mr. Lacayo [words indistinct] in addition to other problems there are in Nicaragua, there have recently been new indications of a certain tension within UNO, between the Political Council and the transition team. [Words indistinct] could you give us your opinion about the relationship between the Political Council and the transition team, the possibilities, and the causes of the tension? How will this be settled [words indistinct]?

[Lacayo] Gladly, Sergio. Every time I meet with the press, and this dates back to last September, we have discussed the issue of tension between the Political Council—at that time, the campaign team—and now the transition team. Evidently, there has always been tension, and I believe there always will be tension, because each has his own way of seeing things.

I believe many persons are interested in working toward a better future for this country according to their own ideas and concepts. This shows that there is an interest in the country and concern for the future of Nicaragua. We are living through a time when everything is yet to be written.

President Arias said, when he met with Dona Violeta in Liberia, Costa Rica, in late March, that we in Nicaragua are writing a unique page in world history. It is the first time that a government, that obtained power through an armed revolution, is being forced to relinquish their power to a group that won an election. According to President Arias, this has never happened before in any other part of the world.

Obviously, given an unprecedented situation, every person has his own opinion about the future and how it should be tackled. This creates tension that is common in an open and democratic atmosphere, which currently exists in UNO.

However, despite the predictions by some media, these tensions have never broken this unity and will never break it in the immediate future because there is an awareness of the diversity of ideas, which increases the possibility of finding the appropriate solution.

I personnally visited the UNO Political Council during the week of 25 March to report on these two agreements and answer questions on them. At the end of the talks, I got the impression that there was a feeling of unity to act. The UNO Political Council issued a communique a couple days ago that established some criteria, which agrees with the protocol of transfer that we have signed. This has caused some speculation, because if you read the communique carefully, you will not find any contradictions with what was said in the protocol. Thus, I would say that such tension is common. We experienced the tension in September, when the UNO candidates were selected, and in October, when we selected the deputies. We experienced tension in November, December, and January.

However, we have always overcome these differences in a constructive manner, and I believe that we will overcome these differences again this time.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Humberto Ortega admitted in Montelimar that he would be willing to resign from the Sandinist Party [words indistinct]. Also, Dona Violeta would practically put a gun to her head if the government accepted [words indistinct] Humberto Ortega as defense minister. You have neither denied nor stated that he will be participating in the new government as defense minister. What is your rule of thumb to measure the trust of [words indistinct] a government absolutely democratic without the possibility of a coup d'etat by Humberto Ortega, supposing that Violeta Chamorro appoints him defense minister?

[Lacayo] He cannot be appointed defense minister by Dona Violeta, because during the political campaign, she promised that her cabinet will consist of civilians. Therefore, the cabinet will be formed by civilians both at the

Defense Ministry and what is currently known as the Ministry of the Interior. Thus, that possibility that you have mentioned does not exist.

If you are talking about the position of Commander Ortega as head of the Army—let us suppose that he resigned from his party and Dona Violeta decided not to remove him from the Army—I think that the conditions for a coup d'etat are a thing of the past at this point in the democratic game in Nicaragua, Central America, and Latin America.

Coups d'etat were typical of dictators who were afforded the pleasure of assuming power in countries that enjoyed some economic stability. These countries put up with the dictator for several years, until they collapsed. There were dictators who even controlled the economy in an intelligent manner despite the fact that social problems had started to mount. The Nicaraguan case was different. Here in Nicaragua, there is great awareness—even within Sandinist sectors—of the precarious economic situation of the country and the conditions being faced today by the countries that have traditionally provided economic aid to the revolution, after the changes sustained by those countries. I am referring to the East European countries.

The possibilities for the development of a Nicaragua commanded by a dictatorial group that could stage a coup are null, absolutely null. There would not be a government in the world that would support such absurdity. Therefore, I believe that one has to be realistic to start planning the future of Nicaragua. One has to learn what the real possibilitites are of making the correct decision, without introducing the [words indistinct] implied by the kind of scenarios which can no longer take place in Central America.

[Reporter] The decision of having or not having [words indistinct] Gen. Humberto Ortega [words indistinct].

[Lacayo] That is obviously a touchy subject, because, in a way, Gen. Ortega represents the years of war this country has endured; the conscription, which the people have repudiated; and the government of his brother President Ortega, which 59 or 60 percent of Nicaraguans voted against. On the other hand, in the UNO government plan, as well as in Mrs. Chamorro's electoral campaign promises, there is great commitment toward national reconciliation. There is great commitment with respect to the Constitution and the law, and there is great concern, not about the past, but about Nicaragua's future. At this time, to take actions induced by the past and actually neglecting the future would not be wise. I believe that Nicaraguans voted for a change. Polls clearly showed that the [main] problems of the Nicaraguan people were the economic crisis and the war.

Therefore, the change the Nicaraguan people demanded was simply an improvement of the economic situation and to attain peace. What the new government will have to accomplish to satisfy the Nicaraguan people are the two aforementioned needs—progress and peace. Mrs. Chamorro's decisions will have to focus around these two objectives. To guarantee stability, which is a crucial matter for any economic improvement and to guarantee peace—not only the country's military peace, but also the country's social peace—is a very difficult task. This decision will obviously and undoubtedly have an effect on the future of the economy and on the possibilities of attaining a real peace in Nicaragua, which is why this is such a difficult decision.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lacayo] Obviously, as you point out, for the workers the improvement in the economic situation that Nicaraguans want means an improvement in their salaries. The real salary of the country's workers, according to economists, is about 20 percent of what it was some 10 years ago. Nicaraguan workers earn a very low real salary. They are unable to buy not only luxury items, but also the essentials to survive.

We realize that we will be pressured and this why the government is already adopting measures to stop inflation or hyperiflation, the main scourge of the working class. In this regard, we are already drafting an economic plan. We are seeking aid from countries that have expressed interest in helping Nicaragua at this critical juncture.

Two missions are currently visiting European and Nordic countries, headed by Dr. Francisco Mayorga and [name indistinct]. We have already visited Washington and Japan. In Nicaragua, we have met with Soviet Embassy officials and the ambassadors of East European nations, and we have sought solidarity through all possible means at a critical moment when Dona Violeta is scheduled to assume power on 25 April.

To the extent that the economy begins to stabilize and to the extent that hyperinflation drops, we believe that the workers' real salaries will improve. This will obviously not happen overnight. We are sure that we will be immediately pressured. Businessmen and workers will have to solve most of the problems. We will give unions greater freedom of action. We do not expect the government to get involved in particular cases or in every activity in the country. Businessmen and workers will have to assume their responsibilities. They will have to reach agreements in each case. The future Labor Ministry will, at the least, help mediate between the parties under free bargaining conditions.

[Reporter] Mr. Lacayo, Gen. Ortega has expressed interest in [words indistinct] the Army.

[Lacayo] I was told that he said that in Montelimar.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lacayo] Definitely. In fact, each paragraph of the protocol, or almost all of them, mentions respect for the Constitution and laws of the Republic. In this regard, it is important to point out the differences between what

happened [word indistinct] in 1979 and what is happening now, because people have a tendency to misunderstand.

In 1979, there was a revolutionary triumph. Therefore, the person who assumed power held absolute power and the loser lost all power. In Nicaragua's case, this was carried to an extreme, because the losing army was dismantled and a new army was created; the ministries, Supreme Court, and deputies, everything was changed as a result of the revolution's victory.

We now have a victory within an electoral framework, which was foreseen in the Constitution. In other words, it is a legal victory, not a revolutionary victory. Therefore, what we will now see in Nicaragua—after the new government assumes power—is quite different from what occurred in 1979, because the government-elect has no intention of acting like what is the norm following an electoral victory. Dona Violeta said it quite clearly directly following the elections, in the early morning hours of 26 February: There will be no winners or losers here.

Dona Violeta will not be the UNO president, she will be the Nicaraguan people's president. The Nicaraguans find it difficult to understand this because such a situation has never occurred in our history. It has always been the same here—the winner pushed the loser out through the back door—and the same thing occurred a few years later, when the new government pushed out the outgoing government.

Nicaragua's instability has made us fall behind the other Central American countries despite the country's riches—which we all talk about with great satisfaction. We say we are a rich country but, nevertheless, right now we are the poorest country in Latin America. We say we have resources, that the Nicaraguan is a great worker, yet we are at the tail end of the world. Why are we at the tail end of the world? The country is not to be blamed. It is all our fault, meaning the Nicaraguans, because we love gossip and we love war, and we love to settle things in the most violent way possible. That is the cycle we hope to break on this occasion.

The legal victory of Dona Violeta and UNO on 25 February would be wasted if the new government starts to act outside the confines of the law. There is a Constitution and there are laws that will be changed. That will be the Legislative Assembly's task. It will have to change what is necessary within the Legislative Assembly's legal framework. It will be able to change some things with a majority vote, but other things cannot be changed with a simple majority vote. It remains to be seen if the Sandinist deputies agree to change some articles of the Constitution, or this will not be possible. There are not enough UNO deputies to meet the minimum required—57 deputies—to change the Constitution.

Consequently, all this turnover, all this protocol, and Gen. Ortega's case falls within this respect for the Constitution and the laws—which together grant Dona Violeta the authority to retire members of the Army and to replace them with other members of the Army. That is why I told you earlier that Gen. Ortega is the one who can decide if he resigns from the party leadership, to qualify for continuing in the Army according to Point 2.2 of the protocol. This is a decision that Dona Violeta must adopt over the next two weeks and it is one of the many alternatives that she has concerning what we talked about ealier, meaning what is best for Nicaragua's future.

[Reporter] Mr. Roberto Moreno Cajina, who is a leader of the Permanent Congress of Workers and Elected Deputies, accused you of making an agreement with the Sandinists [words indistinct]. First of all, what have you done about these statements? Second, due to expectations among the people and the news media [words indistinct] Ortega, why has Dona Violeta not publicly stated whether she will or will not appoint Ortega? Third, has Dona Violeta's team forgotten the special Defense Ministry communique issued on 27 December 1989 instructing security troops to watch, neutralize, and execute their UNO opponents?

[Lacayo] I will answer you from back to front. I believe the time has come to forget. I believe the time has come to look ahead, to stop talking about the past, or we will never be capable of having a future. We Nicaraguans are experts on the past, we know the history of our country's past, and we give the impression that we like to keep regurgitating it. We never speak about the future, and if we want to have a future in this country, we must start forgetting. Anyone who is clean can throw the first stone. I think the time has come to believe.

Concerning Dona Violeta's coming out right now to say yes or no, [concerning Gen. Ortega's appointment], she will take office on 25 April, and she has yet to announce a single cabinet member. With her advisors, she is choosing the best cadres in the country for the new government. This country's situation—economically, socially, militarily, and internationally—is very delicate, and we all know that. The best people in the country must be chosen, and she is choosing them carefully. In Gen. Ortega's case, his would not even be an appointment. If he stays on, it would not be through appointment, but out of respect for the legal situation, for the Constitution, and for the laws of the Sandinist People's Army, which is the nation's Army, according to the currently existing Constitution.

Therefore we must wait until Dona Violeta appoints her ministers and decides how to handle the Army. I do not see why the president must make decisions before that time.

Concerning Roberto Moreno's remarks, the truth is that he is not the first person to accuse me of making pacts with the Sandinists. Many years ago I was accused of the same crime, not in political, but in business matters. During the campaign, it was also said that it had all been

arranged. Therefore, I am not surprised or worried. Although the word pact is frowned upon in Nicaragua for historical reasons, democracy demands continuous dialogue between different sides. What we have had is a dialogue with the transition team appointed by the current government. The dialogue was directed at understanding the worries that the current government had reported to President Carter when he came to Nicaragua for the elections, and which Carter summarized at the first meeting between the two transition teams on 27 February.

The current government was worried about the future of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the appointment of the new defense and interior ministers, and the housing of hundreds of Sandinists who, when they lost the elections, were virtually left in the street and needed to solve their housing problem; to have roofs over their heads. These are the worries we discussed throughout the first month of transition and they prompted the preparation of this protocol. We attempted to find points of agreement between their worries and the UNO government's program, and we agreed on a solution that proved acceptable to both sides. They were relatively satisfied and so were we, because many of these worries had been considered in the UNO government's program.

Therefore, I am not worried about Roberto's accusation of pact-making. We have not made any pacts; we have used the dialogue to attempt to find solutions that will make Nicaragua's future viable. It must be clearly understood that the people voted for change and that there will be change in Nicaragua. I repeat, there was no revolutionary victory; 41 percent of the Nicaraguan people voted for the FSLN, there are 39 FSLN deputies in an Assembly of 92, Dona Violeta has pledged to forge a national reconciliation, and this is not rhetoric; it will be a reality.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] so far, the transition team of the president-elect of Nicaragua has been saying [words indistinct]. It is always said: Dona Violeta said this. Dona Violeta has done that. Dona Violeta will do something in a week or two. However, as of this moment, what is the definite answer of [words indistinct]? The Nicaraguan people voted for change. Dona Violeta [words indistinct] the UNO has said so. However, you people have not given a clear answer. When will Dona Violeta give the people this change? After all, the people have a right—and after all, you are her adviser—to know when the president will speak to Nicaraguans about these changes that will affect all of us, in the first place.

[Words indistinct] my question is: When will Mrs. Chamorro speak? When will she make a pronouncement on this case? You have said that it is time to forget the past. What kind of guarantees can you give us that those who previously suppressed and threatened the people will not start to do it again? Who will guarantee that what happened to Radio Corporacion will not occur again? Are you in a position to do this? You are talking about 51 percent of the people [words indistinct] with 41 percent, as if we were talking about a struggle for power. After all, in a democracy, the majority decide, while the minority—no matter if it was only 41 percent—has to accept the decision of the majority. [Words indistinct] has made serious charges against your group.

Carlos Hurtado said yesterday in BARRICADA that he took it for granted that Mr. Ortega will be appointed in the government. We are confronted by a new [words indistinct]. So, why do we not speak clearly? I think it is about time.

[Lacayo] I will answer you with pleasure, and later I believe Carlos will want to answer the remark about BARRICADA, also. I do not believe we have been abstract. I think the explanation about Gen. Ortega was very clear. It is a decision that Dona Violeta will have to make, and she will have to make this decision prior to 25 April. I understand that this is a decision the people would like to know as of this moment. However, the inauguration is scheduled for 25 April and possibly at that time we will learn of her decision not only about the Army, but also her decision on each of the other ministries and autonomous institutions that form the Cabinet.

I believe that it is also true what you say that the decision of the majority is what should prevail, and that is a fact. The decision of the majority prevails in Nicaragua. The majority wanted change, but it wanted change toward a democratic system, and that is what was not established in 1979, for reasons that history will eventually point out. However, now we must build that democratic system. That democratic system entails respect for the minorities, regardless of whether they belong to 41, 31, or one percent.

In the specific case of Nicaragua, it is obvious that this change has to take place, bearing in mind what has been the history of this country, and specifically what has been the history of the past 12 years. Although it is true that there are no guarantees in this world of anything in life, one must see how history develops to take risks toward the future.

One must understand that elections took place, with the strongest international supervision ever seen in history—not only of our country—but of apparently anywhere in the world. This is the first time that the United Nations has supervised the elections of a sovereign nation. This is the first time in world history that the United Nations has supervised the elections of a sovereign nation. [Repeats himself] There had only been cases of UN supervision during the decolonization processes. This happened in Nicaragua with FSLN approval.

This is also the first time that in the face of an electoral victory, the government has recognized that electoral victory. Thus we must see things clearly. Here we are not facing a Noriega and we are not facing a Somoza, who caused the bloodshed of the people and in the end had to take a helicopter and flee.

An opportunity came up with the Esquipulas Agreements with which the Sandinist government started to comply in a partial manner, in a not so perfect manner, but it started to comply, at any rate. The fact is that we held elections, there was supervision, the opposition won, and the victory of the opposition was recognized less than 24 hours later. Those are facts that we must bear in mind to evaluate the risks in the future. Therefore, there are no guarantees, but we must clearly understand the will of the people.

Concerning BARRICADA, I do not know if you wish to answer that, as I believe there was something there... [changes thought] On the 25th, on 25 April, she will speak about that, unless she thinks it is advisable to do so before, but we would have to ask her.

[Carlos Hurtado] I would really like to answer your question, and avail myself of this opportunity to say that I regret what was published yesterday in BARRICADA. It was a mistake—or so I wish to think that was the case—on the part of BARRICADA, but the truth is that at no time did I say that. Therefore, I must assume it was a mistake by BARRICADA to have quoted me as saying any such thing. It would have been tremendously rude on my part and towards the president-elect to make such statements on issues on which she has not made any decision.

[Reporter] That simple?

[Hurtado] Yes.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to Nicaragua, when according to ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] [words indistinct] if you have any confirmation, any committment of the disarmament inside Nicaragua [words indistinct]?

[Lacayo] Look, concerning those who are stationed in Honduras, we have a report saying that on 18 April—and this is according to a communique they themselves issued—they will conclude their demilitarization there. We understand that most of the people have entered national territory. However, there is a number that varies according to their opinion and according to the Honduran Army's opinion. Some say there are more, others say there are less. At any rate, there is an important contingent in Yamales, whose demilitarization is going to be important and steps must be taken in that direction.

We can understand that those who have entered Nicaraguan territory have done so for reasons we do not understand. This makes the situation much more difficult, definitely. It puts more pressure on ONUCA, inasmuch as they [the contras] requested, in the agreement, that these points of concentration be under the surveillance of [words indistinct].

The more people there are in the country, obviously, the more difficult it would be to watch them. We pointed this out to them when we signed the Toncontin Agreement on 23 March. However, it seems that they feel a certain security with their weapons, and they prefer to carry out the demobilization inside Nicaraguan territory. It gives me the impression that someone whose life has been depending on a weapon for many years finds it difficult to let go of that weapon. Perhaps they prefer to do this in national territory because they feel more secure.

I personally feel that this definitely complicates the situation. What date do we have for those in Nicaraguan territory? We cannot set a date because it does not depend on the will of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the current government of Nicaragua, or the new government. This matter depends on objective conditions beyond the control of these three sides, such as the possibility that ONUCA, at first, and then the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] will be ready to implement the demilitarization and demobiliation or the contras' return to society.

We are doing all we can so that during all of next week ONUCA can prepare to perform that task. That depends on a contingent of Venezuelan soldiers that ONUCA requested. Those soldiers will have to arrive in the country. We are talking about 700 or 800 persons. We are talking about the arrival of several airplanes. Some Venezuelan soldiers will go to Honduras to expedite the disarmament on 18 April. Others will have to come here. These are logistical matters beyond the control and will of the Nicaraguan sides involved. This makes it hard to talk of a date. The important thing is that as soon as ONUCA is able to verify the cease-fire and supervise those security or concentration zones, the demobilization will be carried out with a measure of speeed.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of PRENSA LATINA. [Question indistinct]

[Lacayo] The UNO program clearly mentioned not just the desire to maintain, but to expand relations, since democracy is not at odds with having relations with any country in the world, based on mutual respect for sovereignty and something that is now called mutual benefit. In this respect, Nicaragua's new government reaffirmed its desire to maintain relations with all the countries with which it now has relations, and even to begin relations with some countries with which it does not.

New Independent Television Newscast Announced

PA0804173090 Managua Sistema Sandinista de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Carlos Briceno]

[Text] Right after the victory of the people and democracy on 25 February, I requested Sistema Sandinista de Television to grant me a space to conduct an alternative television newscast. One month later, they have answered favorably. Therefore, we will be on the air today and everyday at this same time. Due to lack of

resources, for the time being, we will be on the air for only a few minutes. However, very soon we hope to have a 30-minute newscast. This will be a truly independent newscast, as its name indicates, and will not be subject to the interests of a party, or to economic interests. It will be subject to the interests and aspirations of all Nicaraguan people, to democracy, reconciliation, and to Nicaragua's economic and social recovery. The journalism we will perform in this television space will be objective, well-balanced, responsible, but above all, it will be in the service of Nicaragua.

Panama

U.S. Said Pressuring Change in Corporation Law

PA0704135590 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 1A

[Communique issued by the National Bar Association in Panama City on 26 March]

[Text] Whereas:

1. There are well-grounded rumors circulating at home and abroad that the U.S. Government is demanding a number of amendments to Panamanian laws on corporations and the banking system;

2. The climate fostered by the desire to change a system that has proven to be of great benefit for Panama's interests prompted a considerable drop in the activities of lawyers engaged in rendering services for the establishment of corporations and banking instruments, as well as in the international clientele that have been consolidated over several decades;

3. The government's discussions on the aforementioned topics have so far been kept secret to the utmost without consultation of the most affected sector, namely, the lawyers' group;

4. Under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking and its unlawful gains, as well as possible tax evasion by U.S. citizens, the U.S. Government is demanding changes to an economic structure that is based on over 60 years of work, as is the case with corporations, making Panama an international service center and the leader of many others who try to render the same service, but cannot match our efficiency.

The special commission appointed by the Board of Directors of the National Bar Assocation, duly authorized, resolves:

1. To alert the government and the legislative branch, as well as the entire nation of the huge damage that would be inflicted upon the local economy, because matters of such great scope and importance are being discussed without consultation;

2. To urge the executive branch to publicly state its stance on the matter to end the uncertainty that exists among the system's customers, as this situation has harmed even more an economy already devastated by recent events that are well known to all;

3. To urge the Panamanian legal community to be alert and participate in meetings this Board of Directors will soon hold so that those legal procedures that have served Panama so well are not changed.

[Signed] Jose Miguel Aleman, commission chairman; Luis Alberto Hincapie, commission secretary; Roberto Lewis, Francisco Chiari, Hector Infante, and Carlos Jones, commissioners

Issued in Panama City on 26 March 1990

Comptroller Orders Seizure of Televisora Nacional

PA0804040390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles ordered on 2 April the seizure of all the goods, equipment, and property belonging to Televisora Nacional (TV 2) based on a lawsuit filed by Juan Quintero. According to this lawsuit, Carlos Duque bought stock in the company with 1.5 million balboas of government money that he "obtained through illegal activities."

Carlos used all permissible legal procedures, including the attachment or securing of the television station's property. In addition, the Public Registrar's Office was instructed to ban the sale of property belonging to Televisora Nacional, S.A. and Teleinversiones, S.A. The Directorate of Auditing of the Comptroller General's Office was instructed to investigate and perform the corresponding audit so that the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property can begin its work, as set forth in Cabinet Decree No. 36 dated 10 February 1990.

Fernando Nunez Fabrega has been appointed trustee-administrator of the television station, and Carlos Augusto Herrera Rodriguez and Octavio Chan Chong have been appointed appraisers of the property.

DRP Reports Ill-Gotten Goods, Undue Benefits

PA0604190090 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] The Directorate for the Recovery of State Property [DRP] has estimated at over 2 billion balboas, or half of the foreign debt, the amount of misgotten goods and undue benefits from state resources that were utilized by civilian and military supporters of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The information was given to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA by Magistrate Gonzalo Menendez Franco.

"We are going to have to make a Western dictionary of corruption here," Menendez Franco said in reference to

the cases under investigation, which range from "fictitious procedures of a sensational trial, to persons who had their own free zones, or persons who used an airplane to go to Peru for dinner."

Menendez Franco said the directorate discovered that there are misgotten assets and bank accounts in Venezuela, Spain, France, the Dominican Republic, Germany [not further specified], Sweden, Costa Rica, and the United States, which are also under investigation.

The magistrate explained that the Office of the Comptroller General is receiving written complaints and carrying out investigations on its own and has reported that its auditing section is preparing a report. In cases of illicit exploitation, manipulation of procedures, the embezzlement of funds, or other such activities, the law will be applied and the property recovered.

"Incredible things have happened here," Menendez Franco said. He added that there are six cases being processed, including one involving $41 million, another involving $6.5 million related to a project scheduled for the Old Quarter of Panama City, the case of Rafael Arosemena in the National Bank for "improper use of certificates," another related to some military officers who were receiving payments from the National Lottery, and a number of cases of provisional attachments.

The concerns subjected to provisional attachment or takeover are TV-2 [Televisora Nacional], Le Hermitage Farm in Barco Hill, three farms belonging to [former legislator] Otilio Miranda (El Banco, La Pagoda, and El Pavon), La Escondida Farm in Potrerillos, another farm in Renacimiento, and agricultural tools found in La Chorrera.

The DRP operates under the Controller General's Office and in addition to Menendez Franco, it is comprised of magistrates Eduardo Lombana and Eusebio Marchosky, who is trying to recover property owned by Noriega or his associates in the United States.

Menendez Franco said that each takeover implies the appointment of a trustee, two assessment experts, a change of locks, and the assignment of guards.

He explained that a provisional attachment involves many procedures. For example, in the case of 82 head of cattle owned by Otilio Miranda found in Renacimiento Arriba, "they had to be brought down and some expenses were incurred."

"I could flood Panama with provisional attachments this afternoon, but certain steps must be fulfilled," Menendez Franco said. He added that "we are working with the bare essentials."

The three magistrates participated in an international controllers meeting in Miami in the United States where they formally laid claim to property and accounts in that country that could total $600 million.

Menendez Franco said that during the meeting, they obtained a yearly scholarship to train Panamanian officials from the U.S. counterpart to the Controller General's Office and offers of technical assistance from Mexico, Honduras, the PRC, Sierra Leone, and Dominica. [as published]

Government Unable To Pay 13-Month Bonus

PA0604185390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1734 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The national government cannot pay the 13-month bonus to public employees, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany has said.

[Begin recording] [Endara] The government does not have the economic or financial capacity to pay the 13-month bonus to public employees. We have not repealed and we will not repeal any ruling on the 13-month bonus paid by private enterprise.

We hope and we know that private enterprise will fulfill its obligations. Public offices have had to suspend the bonus because of the anarchic situation left behind by the military dictatorship. We hope that in the near future, as soon as we begin to recover economically and the treasury begins to recover, we will be able to resume the 13-month bonus payments.

[Reporter] The U.S. House of Representatives has approved aid to Panama, but the Senate still has to approve it. How do you view the situation?

[Endara] I believe in the leadership of the men in Washington, who are friends of Panama. We have a great friend of Panama in President George Bush. Panama also has many friends among the senators and congressmen. They want Panama to make progress economically. They know that democracy depends on economic progress. Panama's friends in Washington are big and powerful. I have faith and the hope that the aid will be approved.

[Reporter] How long do you think it will take?

[Endara] I hope that the trip I make to Washington on 29 April at the invitation of President George Bush will basically be a trip to thank the U.S. Government and people. I hope the aid will be approved by then. [end recording]

Paper Questions Leadership of Country

PA0804180490 Panama City PRIMERA PLANA in Spanish 3 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] For 21 years it was very clear to Panamanians who was in command in Panama. No one doubted the mandate of Torrijos, Paredes, or Noriega. During the time the civilians were in control of political power, the common citizen never wondered if real power lay elsewhere. Now, during the 100 days of government, no one knows who is in charge in Panama. Last week President

Endara said that he is in charge, alluding to the general opinion that Vice President Arias Calderon was making decisions on his own concerning the future of the law enforcement forces. Asked about U.S. economic aid, the president responded by saying that "from what he had read in the newspapers he knew that...," raising doubts as to what Vice President Ford had told him about the efforts carried out in the United States. If things are not clear in the Executive Branch, they are much less so regarding the Legislative Branch. Endara has not sent the Legislative Assembly the appointment of the attorney general for approval. Meanwhile, the designations of Supreme Court members were submitted to the assembly almost one month after the assembly was installed. The president has needed to negotiate using his great political expertise to just send the court magistrates names, but has delayed the rest.

For its part, the Legislative Assembly has still not decided to begin to appoint the comptroller general. Other civilian organizations staged a demonstration at the assembly several weeks ago to express support of Ruben D. Carles for the post.

For the observer, certain areas appear to be in certain hands. Thus, the economic package appears to be in the hands of the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] and its vice president, Billy Ford. The social aspects (education, housing, and health) are directed by the Christian Democrats, as is the organization of the public forces. The Arnulfists appear to be limited to the daily activities of private enterprise through the Commerce and Industries Ministry. The presidents' advisers appear to be just as confused with regard to who really is in command.

If they want something to be done or achieved, it seems to be still necessary to get the approval of the three members of the Executive Branch, Endara, Arias Calderon, and Ford. Thus far, very little of significance has been achieved. As a matter of fact, differences are beginning to emerge between prominent members of the parties. The Green Star [Christian Democratic Party] for instance, has renowned figures who do not support or defend the 20 December invasion and who seek to ride the growing wave of nationalism that eventually will repudiate the U.S. invasion.

Meanwhile, some ministers have signed decrees and resolutions demanded by the United States, against their own consciences. At private meetings they are beginning to voice their discontent about the U.S.-imposed terms which, in a short time, will include changing the system of corporations and banking secrecy. At the same time, the United States seems to be happy that no one is really in command in Panama, because it has yet to decide on Endara, Arias Calderon, or Ford.

Argentina

Preview of 9 Apr Cavallo-Hurd Meeting in London

PY0604220890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1722 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (NA)—The main objective of Argentine diplomacy in the meeting that Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and his British counterpart Douglas Hurd will hold next Monday [9 April] in London is "to obtain a commitment" by Great Britain to begin negotiations on the problem of fishing around the Malvinas.

In the Madrid negotiations last February, London diplomatically avoided the Argentine overtures to eventually present a proposal on this thorny issue in which the Kelpers [the name given to the Malvinas residents] do not want to take a single step backwards because it represents a yearly income of $30 million.

Based on a slogan of former Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti that "fishing represents sovereignty," Cavallo knows that the Argentine-British Commission created to this effect will only begin to yield concrete results when there is a top-level political decision in this regard.

Argentina must break the lobby [preceding word in English] of interests that is coalescing day by day around the issue of fishing in the Malvinas within the framework of current conditions.

Relaxed over the fact that a recent agreement with the Soviet Union to improve the protocols of the [Argentine-Soviet] fishing agreement will prevent Moscow from eventually having to ask London for an authorization, Cavallo intends to find a solution to the issue.

Therefore, at 0830 on Monday, when he enters the Foreign Office [preceding two words in English] (the British Foreign Ministry), Cavallo's main objective will be to make an effort to advance on this issue.

At the same time, over the next few weeks the executive branch will submit to Congress a general bill on fishing to define the legal framework on this matter that will permit the executive branch to negotiate with other countries on a clearer basis than the current one.

This bill is basically promoted by Cavallo and by his adviser Aldo Dadone, among others.

Nevertheless, Cavallo will also express to Hurd his insistence on the elimination of the visa system for citizens who want to visit the other country; but, with an exception: A written authorization on a paper outside their passport would be signed for the Kelpers. This exception is designed to avoid setting a precedent for future negotiation on the Malvinas sovereignty. This was the system that prevailed until the 1982 war.

Cavallo will leave at Hurd's office copies of agreements on investment guarantees that Argentina has signed with third parties and that Great Britain wants for its companies, many of which are interested in the privatization of Argentine state-run enterprises.

The final objective of these guarantees is to achieve by late 1990 the elimination of the brand-new security system that became effective early this month. This security system permitted London to lift the 200-mile military exclusion zone that has existed around the Malvinas since the military conflict in the South Atlantic.

Cavallo, who will be the first Argentine foreign minister to visit London since 1982, will invite Hurd to Argentina. On diplomatic turf, foreign ministers' visits always precede presidential visits. Therefore, it is only fair to presume that Menem will stop over in London when he makes his postponed tour through Western Europe. In principle, the Argentine chief of state will in September make half of the tour that he had planned to make last February, and the other half in February [1991].

Therefore, September or February are the most feasible months for an expected Menem-Margaret Thatcher meeting that will crown the normalization of the diplomatic relations after an eight-year severance.

Senator Menem Wants Falklands Sovereignty Talks

PY0704175290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1658 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry has reported that Senator Eduardo Menem has stressed in London the Argentine Government's "firm decision" to convince Great Britain "to accept discussion on the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands."

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Argentine-British nongovernmental conference in London, Senator Menem stated that this reservation of rights established in the agreements between the two countries, known as the "sovereignty umbrella," "prevents acts carried out as a consequence of those agreements from being used as arguments by the United Kingdom to demand certain rights."

Menem, Bolivia's Paz Zamora Meet in La Rioja

PY0904023090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora have reaffirmed that their countries "need a process of adjustment and state reorganization." The two presidents discussed bilateral relations and the Latin American democratization process.

The Presidential Public Relations Office has issued a communique saying that the two presidents talked for some time at the country estate of Amado Menem, the

president's brother, in Anillaco, La Rioja Province, before inaugurating the Mohibe Akil de Menem Hospital.

After the ceremony, the Bolivian president invited his Argentine colleague to visit Tarija, Paz Zamora's hometown, to celebrate Paz' birthday on 15 April. Menem's response, however, is not known.

At the end of the meeting Menem said: "We are working for a new Argentina, a new Bolivia, and a new Latin America." The meeting was the third between the two presidents since they took over in their respective countries last year.

Menem: Yacyreta Announcement Carefully Planned

PY0604201490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Last night President Carlos Menem was interviewed by a Cordoba daily. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Yacyreta project, Menem said that he told Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez that he is determined to stop the corruption that has been detected in the construction of this project because if we do not stop the corruption now, we will never be able to finish it and the cost will be excessive.

Menem then said that it was not by coincidence that he denounced the corruption in Yacyreta just as the IDB was holding its annual assembly and just as it granted a new loan for this project. It was all carefully planned to assure the international organization that the funds they are going to disburse for Yacyreta will actually be used for this project and not just by a few crooks who have become rich.

Menem Addresses Pro-Government 'Yes Rally'

PY0704025290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2312 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said tonight that Argentina "is in bad shape," but that "we are on the right track," and that, therefore, the time has come "to say yes to Argentina, yes to the people, and yes to Latin America."

The chief of state said this during a seven-minute speech from the balcony of Government House to thank the crowd attending the "Yes Rally" in support of the national government.

This was Menem's speech:

"Brothers and sisters of my fatherland, dear children: I have not prepared a speech. I have not come here to use trite words. I have not come to speak in the name of a party or of a group of parties. I have not come to speak in the name of the government.

"I have come as Argentine president to speak, to utter a few words in the name of this never-enough-loved fatherland.

"I have come to speak about those who are no longer with us, but I have also come to speak in the name of those who are not here and could not come here, perhaps because they could not pay their bus fare.

"I have not come to tell you that Argentina is well. I have come to expose my heart to tell you that it is in bad shape, but that we are on the right track and that, therefore, the time has come to say, sisters and brothers in this historic square, to say yes to Argentina, yes to the people, yes to Latin America.

"I want to thank you in the name of Argentina because here and throughout our entire territory we are changing history. A new Argentina is being born. Despite the fact that we are in bad shape, the productive revolution is under way. This productive revolution is making our dear fatherland stand and march toward its destiny of grandeur. I simply wanted to tell you this.

"I am returning tonight to my province, my La Rioja, my land, where I was born. I come from this humble province of La Rioja and with all humility, by God's design and yours, I am here saying these words.

"This is the shortest speech of my life, but it is also the most beautiful speech of my life because I feel accompanied by all Argentines who want a great and just fatherland.

"Sisters and brothers, compatriots, in the name of Argentina, thank you. In the name of the people, thank you. In the name of our fatherland, thank you. We are here at a new milestone in the history of our fatherland to change its history.

"Thank you, everyone. Thank you, workers. Thank you, professionals. Thank you, businessmen.

"I am embracing you with my heart. God bless you. Let the party continue. This is the yes party, the party of Argentina. Thank you."

Opinion Poll Indicates Menem's Image Improving

PY0604232490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1720 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem's image experienced "a substantial improvement" in March and the first week of April, thus reversing a decline that took place in February when the dollar began an uncontrolled rise. According to an opinion poll carried out by the consultant company Lynch, Menendez, Nivel, and Associates, 43.5 percent of the people polled have a favorable image of the chief of state, while 27.75 percent have a fair image of him.

Noteworthy among the main conclusions of the poll, which included 500 persons in the federal capital, is the

fact that "45 days ago, more than one person was against Menem for every person supporting him, but now for every person against him there are three persons supporting him." Opinions of the government's performance also improved, as favorable opinions increased from 21 percent in February to 34 percent in early April.

Opinions regarding the economic policy also improved last month. In February, 11.3 percent of the people polled had a favorable opinion, while in April this percentage increased to 25.7 percent.

According to the consultant company, the main reason for the deterioration of the government's image in February "was hyperinflation and the uncontrolled dollar-exchange rate, variables which, in addition to causing all types of tension, cause the purchasing power of salaries to plunge." The latest poll indicates that "the five weeks of foreign exchange stability and the fact that the 40-percent weekly inflation rate of the first week of March decreased in the last week of March are the main reasons for the favorable change in public opinion."

Economy Minister on Results of Visit to U.S.

PY0704214690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2105 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Report by special correspondent Alberto Lippi; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Washington, 6 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said here today that the Argentine foreign debt "cannot be disowned because it is legitimate, but we must get our creditors to agree that we must meet our responsibilities, and not increase the people's poverty."

Today, at the end of a week of intense official engagements, Gonzalez held a news conference in which he said that Argentina will begin negotiating with commercial creditor banks on 7 May, that the country can make "minimal payments" during the course of the meetings, and that he hopes to refinance the $5.5 billion that the country owes in delinquent interest.

Gonzalez said that during his meetings with the Treasury Department, the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], and the U.S. Eximbank, he obtained broad support for Argentina's economic program. Gonzalez added that this was "the most important result" of his trip.

During the news conference at the National Press Building in Washington, Gonzalez told reporters that the letter of intent he presented to the IMF on 4 April will be formally discussed by the IMF board of directors on 25 May. If all goes well" the first disbursement could be made on 30 May, Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez met with World Bank President Barber Conable for the second time today—the first time was in Montreal—to continue analyzing various projects for which World Bank financing was requested. Gonzalez will return to Argentina on 9 April.

Gonzalez reiterated during the news conference that the Argentine Government wants to restore the value of its currency, reduce the size of the state, and get the economy growing again. The minister said the government has broken the hyperinflationary momentum and that during the last week of March "we even had deflation"; that is, prices dropped in nominal terms.

Gonzalez, however, recognized that "there are 9 million poor people" in the country and that the combined unemployment rate [words indistinct] reaches 14 percent" of the population in working age. The minister added that the situation forced the government to establish a social assistance program to last until growth policies take hold.

Gonzalez said the state enterprises rationalization program will permit a savings of $1.4 billion and that, given our present education budget of $600 million, "we could double our expenditures in education without affecting other areas.

Regarding personnel, Gonzalez said that the goal is to achieve a 25-percent reduction this year.

The minister said that the cost of the program "will be paid by those who have more."

Gonzalez said that, theoretically, hyperinflation produces unemployment and a loss of the purchasing power of salaries, which affects mainly those on a fixed income. Gonzalez added that the current program intends to reverse this situation and that, unlike in the past, "today we came with a program in full effect and not with promises that were later not totally fulfilled and which prevented the deep reforms that the productive apparatus needed."

Interior Minister Rejects Intervention in Tucuman

PY0604190290 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Report by Silvina Porta from Government House]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa has asserted that there will be no intervention in Tucuman because there is no conflict of powers in that province. The minister made this announcement after a lengthy meeting with national and provincial deputies and Tucuman Justicialist Party convention members who this morning also met with President Carlos Menem.

Let us hear what Minister Mera Figueroa announced:

[Begin Mera Recording] There will be no federal intervention in Tucuman Province. This decision, announced by the president of the nation, who is willing to ratify it as many times as necessary, was made because in Tucuman Province there is no conflict of powers as established by the Constitution and as we have told you

on several occasions. The Constitution refers to conflict of powers in relation to the conflicts of the constitutional powers of a province. If a ruling by the Tucuman Supreme Court is not respected, the worst that could happen would be a conflict between different provincial powers. This would not violate the republican system and could be solved by the Supreme Court of the nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Defense Minister Denies Presence of U.S. Troops

PY0704152890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Excerpt] La Paz, 6 Apr (EFE)—Bolivian Defense Minister Hector Ormachea today denied that there are U.S. military forces in Bolivia cooperating in the antidrug struggle. Ormachea said that reports to this effect are "simple speculation" and added that the U.S. Defense Department "has nothing to do in Bolivia."

He added that the only military troops sent by the United States are those expected to arrive in the next few [words indistinct] to continue the work on Pati Pati hill to allow the extension of the Potosi airport, 574 km south of La Paz. This leveling work began in 1989.

The defense minister pointed out that military doctors from the U.S. Southern Command regularly come to Bolivia to carry out "civic action" tasks in Bolivia's rural areas. Ormachea noted that, except in this case, the Bolivian Government will not allow the presence of any foreign military force on its territory.

The minister also said he has no official information about the return of the "Peace Corps" to this country. [passage omitted]

Iturralde Departs for London Antidrug Meeting

PY0704160290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] La Paz, 6 Apr (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde and Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Javier Murillo departed for London today to present a proposal on "coca and development" at a ministerial "summit" to discuss a reduction of the demand for drugs and the dangers of cocaine. The conference will be inaugurated by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on 9 April. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Colombian President Virgilio Barco will also be present, along with other personalities.

Iturralde will speak on Bolivia's proposal to replace coca plantations with alternative rural development projects in coca-producing zones. The minister said today that he expects the proposal to be welcomed by EC countries because the EC has already offered to cooperate in replacing coca plantations and implementing alternative development programs.

The objective of the London "summit," which will last until 11 April, is to encourage the international community to fight drug manufacturing, trafficking, and consumption. Bolivia is considered the second largest coca-producing country after Peru. Its annual coca-leaf harvest is estimated at 155,000 metric tons, 80 percent of which is used to manufacture cocaine.

Antinarcotics Courts To Be Dissolved, Replaced

PY0604171490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] La Paz, 5 Apr (EFE)—According to Justice Ministry Undersecretary Roger Pando, the 13 special antinarcotics courts created 10 months ago in Bolivia, with a record of more "failures than successes," will be dissolved because of their "inefficacy." They will be replaced by "maximum security" tribunals. Pando said the government will eliminate the courts created by the "Law of Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances," known as Law 1008, with U.S. economic support.

Some of the reasons for the "failure" were the lack of an adequate infrastructure, little Supreme Court support, no technical training to present solid arguments, and the influence of drug traffickers' economic power, Pando said.

According to the undersecretary, the haste to promulgate Law 1008 "permitted the creation of special antinarcotics courts too weak to deal with the so-called big shots of the drug-trafficking world and excessively harsh with small producers and coca stumpers." "It would be worthless and expensive for the government to maintain this kind of judicial system," Pando said.

Pando said that two "maximum security tribunals" to try drug trafficking and terrorist activities would be adequate. Bolivia is the second largest coca-producing country in the world and coca leaves are the raw material for cocaine.

The antinarcotics courts will be economically and technically reorganized by the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). UNFDAC expert Fernando Imposimato arrived in La Paz on 4 April. He said the organization will allot "several million dollars" to improve the Bolivian judicial system.

According to Supreme Court President Edgar Montano, the antinarcotics courts in La Paz Department face a critical situation for lack of government support. Montano confirmed the "resignation" of various court officials, including a prosecutor, because the government had not not paid them salaries for the past eight months. The Supreme Court president said the government suspended paying salaries because it "cannot afford to pay people who do not work."

Official sources who asked that their names not be revealed said that U.S. aid to the courts was conditioned

on changes in the Bolivian judicial system. Judges Jaime Machicado, Jaime Romero, and Luis Rada of La Paz' First Narcotics Court, today criticized the government for its "groundless" charges. Machicado said his court is doing an honest job. He bragged about sending 244 people linked to drug trafficking in La Paz to jail in joint action with the Second Narcotics Court. "We did not delay decisions or act with inefficacy, despite the ridiculous work conditions," the judge stressed. "Authorities have never put a foot in court to see how we operate," the judge said.

Brazil

Itamaraty Official Says Trade With U.S. Sought

PY0704021490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a meeting with eight U.S. congressmen, Samuel Pinheiro Guimaraes, head of the Itamaraty Economic Department, said that Brazil wants to purchase more products from its largest trade partner. He said, however, that before doing so, the country must generate currency and reduce its foreign debt. Pinheiro Magalhaes pointed out that the occasional trade disagreements between Brazil and the United States do not harm the friendly relations between the two countries.

[Begin Pinheiro Guimaraes recording] The trade disagreements between our countries are not so important or numerous as the disagreements the United States has with Japan or with the EEC. These disagreements occur commonly in trade relations between countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Treasury Reports Surplus of 47 Billion Cruzeiros

PY0704020490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Excerpt] The National Treasury has reported that in March it had a cash balance surplus totaling 47 billion cruzeiros, and a fiscal surplus totalling 33 billion cruzeiros. According to Treasury Director Roberto Figueiredo, these surpluses show that the Treasury accounts now can be balanced. He explained that the increased revenue in March and the reduced expenses resulting from the economic plan have made the surpluses possible. Figueiredo also said that in April, they expect another surplus, because the government will collect a tax on financial operations and will reduce its expenses for the payment of public employees because several federal organizations have been dismantled and the budget will be reformulated. [passage omitted]

Rezek Denies Closing of Embassies in Africa

PY0604122290 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Report by Gustavo Mariani and Ana Felicia]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek asserted that Brazil will not close embassies on the African continent because President Fernando Collor does not intend to turn his back on the region. Minister Rezek explained to the Congressional Mixed Committee the terms of Provisional Measure 150 on Itamaraty reorganization. The minister discussed with the congressmen the objectives of the measure aimed at improving the diplomatic career.

The item most questioned by the congressmen was the one establishing that a diplomat cannot remain in the same position for more than 15 years. Minister Rezek asserted that, in the next five years, only 23 ambassadors will be affected by this measures. He also asserted that no embassy will be closed.

[Begin recording] Our bilateral relations with friendly countries cannot be altered. We can reduce our expenses and reorganize the system, but without breaking up or cooling bilateral relations and without any political commitment. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Rezek also said that the reorganization of the Foreign Ministry could have been implemented through a draft bill but explained that, as this reorganization is part of the New Brazil Plan, the government preferred to do it as part of the administrative reform.

New Computer Cheaper, Faster Than Competitors'

PY0704030790 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Brazil has already built a computer that can perform all the operations that, until now, only imported supercomputers could do until now. The Brazilian computer has two advantages: It is faster and much cheaper.

Although the Brazilian-made computer is 60 centimeters high and 50 centimeters wide and can be placed on a desk, it can make, in a matter of minutes, a series of operations that supercomputers take one whole day to do. The computer's name is NCP-1. It is a parallel computer that can replace the so-called supercomputers. The NCP-1 has a series of boards that work in tandem and increase the computer's performance. This set can perform 640 million operations, such as addition operations, per second. In addition to its speed, another advantage of the NCP-1 is its cost. This prototype was built at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University by a team of 13 researchers and 50 scholarship holders in 14 months. Its overall cost was $400,000. A supercomputer can cost from $10 to $20 million.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is any one yet interested in commercializing this type of computer?

[Unidentified researcher] We are contacting some Sao Paulo companies, and at least one of them is very much interested. We are also trying to set the conditions for copying this prototype and distributing the copies to other universities and research centers. [end recording]

* Structure of Office of the Presidency Described

90SM0004A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor is beginning to govern with a new structure. The OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE UNION reported yesterday that the Office of the Presidency of the Republic will operate with one secretariat and two households: the General Secretariat, and the Military and Personal Households of the President of the Republic. In addition, he will have at his disposal several organizations for consultation, advice, and direct assistance to the president.

The consultative organizations are the Council of the Republic and the Council of National Defense, with a composition and powers stipulated in the Constitution. Their organization and operation will be regulated by a special law. The advisory organizations are the Council of Government, composed of the state ministers, the Armed Forces High Command, and the Office of the General Counsel of the Republic. The organizations of immediate assistance to the president are the Secretariats of Culture, Science and Technology, Environment, Regional Development, Sports, Federal Administration, and Strategic Affairs.

The purpose of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic is to assist the president directly and immediately in the discharge of his duties and, in particular, in the coordination of administrative action. It will also take action in monitoring government programs and policies, and in relations with the states, Federal District, and municipalities. In addition, it will carry out the technical supervision of the Secretariats of the Presidency of the Republic.

The Military Household and Personal Household are directly subordinate to the president of the republic, and are administratively attached to the General Secretariat. The Military Household assists the president in matters relating to military administration. That household will also provide for the personal security of the president, the general secretary, the chief of the Military Household, and the chief of the Personal Household, as well as that of the respective presidential residences and palaces. The purpose of the Personal Household is to assist with the services of the private secretary's office and the aide-de-camp's office.

The Council of Government, composed of the state ministers, serves as advisor in the formulation of guidelines for governmental action. It will always meet at the president's convocation, and will be chaired at every meeting by the state minister designated by Collor.

The purpose of the Secretariat of Science and Technology is to plan, coordinate, supervise, and control activities in science and technology, including special promotion programs, and research and development activities in priority areas. The Secretariat of Environment will do the same with regard to the national policy on environment, and the preservation, conservation, and rational use of renewable national resources.

The Secretariat of Regional Development will plan, coordinate, supervise and control the action of the federal organizations and entities acting in regional development programs and projects. The Secretariat of Sports will encourage the development of sports in the country, based on the national policy for physical education and sports. It will also provide technical cooperation and supplementary financial assistance to the states, Federal District, municipalities, and national entities directing sports.

The purpose of the Secretariat of Federal Administration is to conduct studies, devise guidelines, provide regulatory guidance, and plan, coordinate, supervise, and control matters relating to the civilian personnnel in the direct, indirect, and foundational federal public administration.

Finally, the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs will exercise the authority of the Council of Government's Executive Secretariat, developing studies and projects for use in areas essential to territorial security, and express opinions on their effective use. Moreover, it will provide the necessary assistance for the decisions of the president of the republic and will aid in the planning, execution, and monitoring of government action in the defense of the national institutions. It will have a coordinating role in the formulation of the national nuclear policy, and will oversee its execution.

The new structure of the Office of the Presidency no longer has the Civilian Household, abolished by Article 25 of Provisional Measure 150, and replaced by the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic.

The first general secretary named by President Fernando Collor is Ambassador Marcos Coimbra, whose main function will be to serve as liaison between the federal government, states and municipalities, and between the Executive Branch and the National Congress.

To discharge this role, based on the same article of the Provisional Measure, the salary of the general secretary is 192,200.00 cruzados, to be readjusted in the same percentage and at the same time that the salaries of the state ministers are set.

The General Secretariat has a larger and more complex structure than the Military and Personal Households. It consists of a General Undersecretariat, an Office of Protocol, and a Secretariat of Internal Control. For its essential functions, general secretary Marcos Coimbra defined yesterday, through a spokesman, the internal

arrangement of the organizations attached to the General Undersecretariat of the Presidency of the Republic. It has nine departments, two divisions, and one section, involved in multiple activities, both administrative and operational, and also handling special matters, such as the president's health and the former president's support and security. The Office of Protocol still retains its normal responsibilities of managing the social activities of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic, and its social agenda. The Secretariat of Internal Control exercises control over budgetary, financial, and patrimonial management, as well as that of the General Secretariat per se, also covering the subordinate organizations and entities attached to it.

In the cabinet reform promoted by the government, Brazil will have only 12 ministries: Justice; Navy; Army; Aeronautics; Foreign Affairs; Education; Health; Economy, Finance, and Planning; Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; Labor and Social Security; Infrastructure; and, Social Action. There was a significant reduction in the administrative machinery, because the previous government had 23 ministries.

Chile

Foreign Investment Increased in First Quarter

PY0604141490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has reported the approval of applications from foreign investors, especially in the mining sector. The minister made this remark at a meeting during which a foreign investment committee was created. The meeting was attended by Economy Minister Carlos Ominami, Planning Secretary Sergio Molina, Mining Under Secretary Ivan Valenzuela, and Central Bank Vice President (Roberto Saller). Foxley said that the newly created committee will continue with the financial negotiations held with the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] in Montreal, Canada. The minister reiterated that foreign investment regulations will not be amended.

[Begin Foxley recording] On the contrary, what we want is to encourage and attract as many foreign investors as possible. The figures reflect a very significant increase in foreign investment during the first quarter. I believe this is very clear evidence of what we detected in Montreal, namely, great confidence in the Chilean economy, in its stability, and in its prospects for growth. [end recording]

The minister was optimistic because, as he put it, foreign investment has undergone significant growth, and this year it will be a major amount. He said that this will improve the living standards of many Chileans.

Relations With Bulgaria Officially Reestablished

PY0604144890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Santiago, 6 Apr (EFE)—The Foreign Ministry officially reported that Chile and the Republic of Bulgaria reestablished diplomatic relations today. The report adds that the signing ceremony took place in Madrid. The agreement was signed by the Chilean charge d'affairs and the Bulgarian ambassador to Madrid.

The official communique expresses the common desire to strengthen the friendship and cooperation ties, based on the principles of equal rights, respect for sovereignty, and nonintervention in domestic affairs. Relations between Chile and Bulgaria will be ruled by the Geneva Convention on diplomatic ties, the document adds.

Codelco To Rehire Those Fired By Past Regime

PY0704134090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] In a moving ceremony held this afternoon in the Codelco [Copper Corporation] offices in the presence of Mining Minister Juan Hamilton, a document was signed stipulating that all workers who were fired from Codelco between September 1973 and December 1989 will be rehired. The document was signed by Codelco and the Copper Workers Federation, thus complying with a commitment made by president of the Republic Patricio Aylwin.

A study will be made to stipulate compensation for those who, because of age, disability, death, or disappearance, can no longer be rehired by Codelco.

Minister Juan Hamilton noted the importance of the ceremony, which signified an end to 16 years of political persecution:

[Hamilton] *This is an important ceremony and—I would say—a moving one for those who attended. For 16 years political persecution of those who opposed the privatization of state-owned companies or who disapproved of the government's basic policy was routine at Codelco. This resulted in the dismissals of about 600 workers. During the presidential campaign, then candidate and now president of the Republic Patricio Aylwin promised to solve this problem if he were elected.*

[Announcer] Minister Hamilton noted that it is time to comply with that commitment:

[Hamilton] *Today we have complied with that electoral promise with the signing, in my presence, of an agreement between Codelco and the Copper Workers Confederation whereby all workers who were dismissed for political*

reasons during the authoritarian government can be reinstated in their former positions at Codelco. This rehiring will be carried out as quickly as possible under Codelco's policies.

[Announcer] Due to age or other tragic reasons, as in the cases of people who disappeared, not all workers will be able to be reinstated to their former jobs.

[Hamilton]*Aside from the company executives and high-ranking officials who were also dismissed, we calculate that half of the 600 workers who were fired will be able to take advantage of this benefit. For the others—some who have left the country or disappeared and others who for reasons of age, disease, etcetra cannot be rehired—there will be a special compensation. This compensation is provided for in principle in this agreement.*

[Anouncer] Hamilton said that it is a matter of repairing some of the damage inflicted over those years, although there will be some cases that are impossible to repair.

LAN, Aeroflot Agree on Santiago-Moscow Flights

PY0704014690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] LAN [National Airline] Chile President (Guillermo Sherin) has reported that within two months LAN Chile will begin flights between Santiago and Moscow. The LAN Chile president returned to our capital after several days in the Soviet Union, where he held meetings with Aeroflot representatives. (Sherin) said that the first flight to Moscow will take place in late May or in early June. He added that Aeroflot will return to Chile on the same date with direct flights.

An agreement signed between the two airlines deals with a number of services, communications support, reserves for the purchase of equipment, and airplane maintenance.

Fishing Controversy Over Soviet Ships 'Resolved'

PY0604191190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] National Fisheries Director Juan Rusque has reported that the situation of the Soviet ships that were selling their catch in Chile has been completely resolved. The foreign ships were glutting our market and were monopolizing the available air transportation capacity. The authorities thus tightened control measures.

[Begin recording] [Rusque] For the time being, the problem has been resolved. There was a commotion among local producers and also among tuna fishermen last week.

[Reporter] Can those ships use Chilean ports now?

[Rusque] They cannot use Chilean ports for unloading merchandise in transit, as they were doing before. We have adopted the customs measures and the animal and plant health control measures which we are empowered to adopt. [end recording]

Rusque added that this type of situation occured because of the gaps in the respective laws. He reported that a committee has been created with representatives of the sectors involved and representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Navy, as a concrete method for tackling the problem.

[Begin Rusque recording] A committee—let us say a swordfish committee—will begin working in Valparaiso. In addition to regulating the fishing of tuna or swordfish [as heard], the committee will also try to regulate the methods used for this type of fishing. The committee will have representatives of industrialists, exporters, tuna fishermen, and the public fishing sector. [end recording]

Rusque called on businessmen and consumers to observe the rules for the exploitation of sea resources during Easter week. He reiterated that oyster and shrimp fishing has been banned.

Colombia

Firm Stance Against Narco-Terrorism To Continue

PA0604152890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1211 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota—The government of President Virgilo Barco Vargas has said that the violent acts that have taken place over the past few days in the country prove once more that narco-terrorist actions are intended to affect innocent people and defenseless citizens.

This is what the government said following a prolonged Security Council session where in-depth studies were made of the public-order situation throughout the national territory, and the difficult situation in Medellin and the Aburra Valley, where 17 National Policemen have been murdered and where Senator Federico Estrada Velez, of the ruling party, [who had been kidnapped] was released unharmed.

Also discussed was the foiled car-bomb attack—using more than 800 kg of dynamite—in northern Bogota. The members of the National Security Council clarified what President Virgilio Barco Vargas said in his television speech on 30 March, that the policies of firmness against organized crime and narco-terrorism continue unchanged. The work of the government, the military forces, and the national police has been successful and cannot be changed, said the official communique. If the Extraditables recognize that their position has no future and they wish to turn themselves in, they may do so, but they cannot expect treatment other than that to which they are entitled under the National Constitution and Colombian laws, underscored the communique.

'Extraditables' Will Increase Terrorist Actions

PA0604212990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1850 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 6 Apr (DPA)—The criminal drug mafias operating in Colombia announced today that they will increase their terrorist attacks on "the industrial and political oligarchy" in response to the alleged disappearance of several of their accomplices.

In a communique sent by telefax to several news media, "The Extraditables," spokesmen for the mafias, said that their "war" will be carried out henceforth because of the "disappearance, torture, and assassination" of several drug traffickers at the hands of the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations (DIJIN).

According to the criminals, who again described themselves as a "political-military" organization, "the problem of extradition has been relegated to secondary status because our main motive for the war will be the torture, assassination, and disappearance of our comrades."

A few days ago, in a similar message, the criminals said that they would place five-ton dynamite bombs in "neighborhoods of the Bogota oligarchy," in reprisal for offensive actions by the authorities.

Yesterday, a car bomb with 800 kg of dynamite was left by drug traffickers in an exclusive sector of the capital. Had it not been for a defect in the detonator, it would have killed at least 5,000 [number as received] people.

According to the criminals, the resurgence of terrorist attacks is due to the "disappearance" late last month of Jose Retavista Garzon, Freddy Lopez Ospina, and brothers Omar and Guillermo Perea Rivera, who reportedly were arrested by the police in the northwestern town of Envigado.

However, according to an investigation carried out yesterday by the Attorney General's Office, these persons are not confined in any garrison of the elite force, a police antiterrorist corps.

"The Extraditables" noted that "the good faith of the Attorney General's Office in no way satisfies our demands because the missing companions were taken out of the school (police headquarters) and executed by order of DIJIN Director Oscar Pelaez Carmona, whom they accuse of "masterminding" several massacres.

The drug-trafficking mafia also said that the killings of policemen had been suspended (14 uniformed policemen have been killed in Medellin since last Monday [2 April]) and that they had never participated in "torture," but, they added, "we will intensify our struggle against the industrial and political oligarchy, which is an accomplice to the assassinations."

The war against the drug mafias in Colombia, which appears to have experienced a violent resurgence, began last August after mercenaries at the service of the criminal groups assassinated in the space of a few hours a magistrate, a police colonel, and presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan.

Escobar Gaviria Plan for Escape Uncovered

PA0704135390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1216 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota—State security organizations have uncovered a plan drafted by Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, the alleged Medellin Cartel chief, to leave the country using a fake passport and papers. A high-ranking National Police source told the press that all security organizations have been placed on a state of alert and that surveillance and control at all airports, roads, and borders has been heightened. It is believed that Escobar Gaviria is trying to leave the country and seek refuge somewhere with Jose Luis Ochoa Vasquez, who also left the country using fake documents.

It was also learned that a few hours ago, members of the Medellin Cartel asked for protection from the security organizations. They have separated themselves from the organization because they do not agree with some of the cartel's actions. The police spokesman approached by Radio Cadena Nacional said that the Medellin Cartel defectors do not agree with the use of car bombs in residential areas or with the indiscriminate killing of National Police agents.

Liberal Party Official Killed in Bogota

PA0904003890 Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 8 Apr (AFP)—The police have reported that Jose Humberto Hernandez, recently elected Liberal Party alternate deputy, was shot to death today in a poor neighborhood in south Bogota.

Hernandez had won the 11 March legislative elections as an alternate for Jose Corredor, who represented the Galanists, followers of the policies of the late Luis Carlos Galan, who was killed last year by drug traffickers.

The police reported that Hernandez, who was scheduled to assume his position officially on 20 July—was hit by several bullets at near-point-blank range. The motive for the killing has not been established.

In the ensuing confusion, the killers managed to flee.

Senator Proposes Front Against Extraditions

PA0704144690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 6 Apr (EFE)—Federico Estrada Velez, 64, senator of the ruling Liberal Party, who was kidnapped and held 3-5 April by the drug-trafficking group called the Extraditables, today announced that he will organize

a national front against extradition. Estrada, the Antioquia Department campaign manager of Liberal presidential candidate Cesar Gaviria for the 27 May elections, said he made those remarks speaking for himself, not the campaign.

Senator Estrada made the announcement during a news conference in his hometown of Medellin, 250 km northeast of Bogota. He deplored extradition as constituting the only means used by the government to fight drug trafficking. He said that the state must do away, once and for all and without any conditions, with the system of extraditing Colombians because this is the only country in the world where the government's sole means (to fight drug trafficking) is extradition, and this is a disgrace, he noted. The Extraditables, the politician added, do no want dialogue or negotiations. As I understand it, they want the suspension of the extradition system that has been in effect since 18 August 1989 because of the state of siege decree, he stated.

Speaking as a private citizen, Estrada said that a system, the sole valid method of which is to send Colombians abroad because justice is totally inefficient to punish anyone, cannot be good. In Colombia, according to the senator, a special court must be established to try Colombians by Colombian laws and judges.

Even the Extraditables (the armed wing of the Medellin Cartel), who are outlaws, have rights as Colombian citizens, and the authorities must respect those rights, he noted. According to Estrada, the war the government declared on drug trafficking has not brought any benefits to the country. The war on drug trafficking has led to more drug trafficking, as this activity has doubled over the past nine months along with deaths, the destruction of wealth, and terrorism; while the country's prestige has horrendously diminished, he stated. All that remains—Estrada added—are the formal accolades President Virgilio Barco receives from abroad

The Extraditables, who claimed responsibility for kidnapping Estrada as a way to make the authorities bring forth four [number as received] of its men, who according to the group had been arrested, today announced in a new communique that they will react to each extradition with bombs, and that they will struggle against torture and disappearances.

Nine Presidential Candidates Officially Approved

PA0804025690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0519 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 2 Apr (EFE)—The Colombian State Council reported on 2 April that it has granted approval for nine Colombian citizens to run for president in the 27 May elections. The approvals were given by the consultation court of that institution after reviewing each of the candidates' professional and social qualifications, as established in Article 94 of the Colombian Constitution.

In the past, the candidates had to file their qualifications for the presidency at the National Registry at the time of their registration, but the government changed that requirement last week. Now, only the candidate who is elected must submit the required documents.

Nevertheless, the State Council's consultation court said that it had already approved the following candidates: Cesar Gaviria, Liberal Party; Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, National Salvation Movement; Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Social Conservative Party; Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, Patriotic Union Party (UP-Left), assassinated on 22 March in Bogota; Regina Betancur de Liska, Metapolitical Unitary Movement; Francisco Antonio Tovar Garces, National Salvation Movement; Gilma Tatiana Rincon Caveli, M-19 [19 April Movement]; Oscar Loaiza Peidrahita, Green Party [Partido Natural - Verde]; Luis Carlos Valencia, Socialist Workers Party.

Former M-19 leftist rebel Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, who launched his candidacy on 1 April from Jumbo, 400 km southeast of Bogota, is waiting for his request to be approved. On 2 April, a new social-democratic movement composed of leftists who are members of the UP and the armed and popular front movements, said they would decide shortly if they will present a candidate.

Lloreda Urges Accepting Traffickers' Surrender

PA0704140290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 4 Apr—Rodrigo Lloreda, presidential candidate for the Social Conservative Party (PSC), today handed a plan to Horacio Serpa, minister in charge of the Presidency, to solve the conflict between the authorities and the drug traffickers over the short term.

Lloreda personally handed over the plan calling for accepting the surrender proposed by the Extraditables on 17 January, to Serpa, filling in for President Virgilio Barco, who is touring Europe.

Upon leaving the meeting, Lloreda quoted Serpa as saying that the government is handling the situation very carefully but did not say whether the acting president accepted or rejected his proposal.

The conflict between the government and the Extraditables (as members of the Medellin Cartel call themselves) worsened today when the drug traffickers threatened to execute Liberal Senator Federico Estrada, who was kidnapped on 3 April, and set off 5,000 kg of dynamite in Bogota if two of their friends, whom the group claims were detained by the police, fail to appear.

The drug traffickers also threatened to detonate 5 tons of dynamite for every drug trafficker extradited from Colombia.

According to the Extraditables, Jose Crisanto Retavista Garzon and Fredy Lopez Ospina were detained and are alive and in the hands of the National Police.

General Octavio Vargas Silva, operations commander of the National Police, after learning of the drug traffickers' threat, today said that Retavista and Lopez were never detained.

He added that the alleged detention of the two citizens is a maneuver by the Extraditables to intimidate the authorities.

However, according to Lloreda, Serpa said that the nation's Attorney General's Office (the highest prosecutorial office) is investigating all aspects related to the kidnapping of Estrada and the detentions denounced by the Extraditables.

The Attorney General's Office today reported that it has assigned personnel to investigate the Extraditables' claim.

The plan submitted by Lloreda to the government calls for accepting the surrender proposed to the government by the drug traffickers, because it is not too late to accept the surrender of the so-called Extraditables, the presidential candidate said.

Specifically, Lloreda proposed that the Extradibles again declare a unilateral truce as a sign of goodwill, and in exchange the government would allow the International Red Cross to verify the situation of Retavista and Lopez.

He also proposed that the government decree a moratorium on extraditions to the United States and the creation of a working group to establish the mechanisms to bring about the drug traffickers' surrender within a month at most.

The plan asks the government to guarantee the trial of drug traffickers in Colombia, that they not be extradited, and that they pay compensation to the victims of attacks they have carried out.

The plan also calls for a 30-day deadline for a verification commission and international observers group to supervise the dismantling of cocaine businesses and the turning over of the Extraditables to justice.

EPL Could Be 2d Group To Accept Peace Plan

PA0804032490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0513 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 2 Apr (AFP)—The Maoist guerrillas of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) could become the second Colombian rebel group to accept the government's peace plan. It was revealed on 2 April that President Barco's government is studying an offer in this regard made by the rebel group.

The Advisory Board for Peace Issues began studying a peace proposal from the EPL after Norberto Rodriguez was released on 30 March. Rodriguez, a brother-in-law of the Venezuelan president, had been kidnapped by the EPL, which was founded in 1967.

Up to now, only the rightist M-19 [19 April Movement] has accepted the executive branch's peace plan. This has allowed them to demobilize and become a political party.

The EPL has announced its willingness to talk with Barco's government; however, it might be difficult to achieve any positive results at this point since the Barco government has only four more months left in office and it took 14 months of negotiations to reach an agreement with the M-19.

Reports from the government's intelligence services, which the advisory board will use to analyze the possibility of a peace agreement with the EPL, state that this armed group is the second largest in Colombia and has 16 guerrilla fronts spread throughout the western region of the country.

According to these reports, the area where the EPL has the most influence is the violent, banana-producing, northwestern area of Uraba.

In their report, the intelligence services also warned that the EPL grew considerably in 1984 when it signed a temporary truce with the former government of conservative Belisario Betancur.

EL ESPECTADOR Asks Government Protection

PA0704140090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] This morning the members of the Board of Directors of the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR awoke with the idea of stopping the publishing of editorials; they even threatened to shut down the paper if the government fails to provide them the necessary guarantees of their right to exercise freedom of the press.

However, tonight the editors of the newspaper were more calm. The government has promised them that greater security measures will be taken to protect their lives while they await the return of President Virgilio Barco to Colombia.

EL ESPECTADOR newspaper was published today without an editorial, and it will continue to be published this way until the return of President Virgilio Barco to the country. The editors met today in the Presidential Palace with the police director, the defense minister, and Horacio Serpa, the minister designated to fill in for the president during his absences. At the conclusion of the meeting, Serpa said that the government will support the editors and added that the government will take the necessary measures to protect the members of the Cano family and the freedom of expression that is being threatened by the Medellin Cartel.

In their last communique, the Extraditables warned that the attacks against the owners of EL ESPECTADOR will continue. Three years ago, the Extraditables murdered

the editor of the newspaper and four months ago they partially destroyed with a car bomb the building that houses the newspaper.

Toll Rising in War With Drug Traffickers

PA0804123690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The northeastern area of Medellin, Antioquia Department, is the site of a battle being waged between policemen and hired assassins. The toll of the tragic war currently stands at over 18 policemen dead and an undetermined number of residents who had nothing to do with a conflict apparently instigated by narcotics traffickers.

Before violence flared up again in Medellin, 23 policemen had already been killed this year. But since they became the targets of the war declared by the narcotics traffickers, over 14 [as heard] policemen have been killed. Almost immediately after these killings, slaughters took place in various towns in the northeastern area of Medellin, where the majority of the terror-stricken residents interpreted this as a retaliation for the deaths of the policemen.

The atmosphere is very somber for all. The policemen now even fear the residents of the towns in which they live. They make sure not to travel alone and have taken special precautions in performing their jobs since they realize there is a price on their heads.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified policeman with his back to the camera] We are very sorry, but this is the job we have chosen and we must continue working.

[Reporter] Did you used to feel more at ease when you left for work?

[Policeman] Before, when I went to work, I felt more at ease; everything was normal. But now I am afraid when I go to work. Well, at least personnel have been increased, and our stations have been reinforced. We go out in groups. We do not go out alone, as before. [end recording]

For those living in the northeast, things are no less serious. The times when groups of kids could gather and chat in a park are gone. Those who murder people do it in an indiscriminate manner. A general state of paranoia exists where even the policemen need someone to protect them. All groups feel that the innocent are having to pay for the sinners.

What is worse, the war sponsored by the narcotics traffickers threatens to intensify, and it is feared that there will not be enough money to fight it. The thirst for vengeance alone is enough to perpetuate the war.

Paraguay

Minister Says Monetary Reform Studies Underway

PY0604162190 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 5 Apr 90 p10

[Excerpts] At the end of a meeting of the National Economic Team that lasted almost two and a half hours, Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi said: "We analyzed a Central Bank initiative to draw up a comprehensive monetary program for which we decided to form a commission comprising representatives of the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, the Technical and Planning Secretariat, and the Industry and Commerce Ministry."

Asked about the program, Debernardi said that "the monetary program is really quite complex. It plans how the country's money will be administered, that is, a plan that refers to credits, monetary expansion, inflation rate, monetary circulation, the payment of the foreign debt, and the country's foreign reserves. It thus refers to interrelated issues that, as in the case of the state of the fiscal deficit, cannot be analyzed separately. This is why the Finance Ministry has insisted for a long time on the need for this plan. [passage omitted]

Asked about the loan granted by Japan that is blocked by Paraguay's failure to pay its debt, about whether the debt is going to be paid, and about the current situation, Debernardi said: "The tendency is to honor debts in order to be able to obtain loans and thus secure an inflow of capital."

When asked how much the foreign debt totaled, the minister said: "I do not want to mention a figure at random because I do not remember the exact amount. I do not remember how much it is but it is more than $10 million. [passage omitted]

The finance minister was also asked whether it was true that the Armed Forces' budget had been reduced by 25 percent. He said: "That is not true. During the latest cabinet meeting the Finance Ministry explained its position and it was approved."

He was then asked how much progress had been made and whether anything had been achieved in his attempt to reorganize his ministry and help to promote the country's economy. He asserted: "Corruption has two aspects: first, the attempt to stop it and second, the attempt to recover ill-gotten gains.

It is the court's job to recover ill-gotten gains and this is what the attorney general of the Republic is doing; part of what has been recovered has already been handed over to the state. I recently announced that the recovered goods amounted to the equivalent of some 14 billion guaranies. We are taking measures to avoid any further corruption, and I believe that there is no corruption within the Finance Ministry." [passage omitted]

Argana Replaces Chaves as Colorado Party Leader

PY0704171290 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpt] The ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] Executive Board held a special session yesterday—a month after its last troubled meeting—and elected Luis Maria Argana, Executive Board president, replacing Juan Ramon Chaves. Chaves asked the board's permission to take an indefinite leave of absence from the Presidency but will continue as a member of the Executive Board.

The meeting began at 1720 and was presided over by Colorado Party Vice President Luis Maria Argana. Argana submitted Chaves' note for consideration and asked the plenum to propose a replacement.

At this point Blas N. Riquelme proposed Argana as president. The nomination was approved by the majority with applause. The "democratic" and "orthodox" factions agreed that Argana was the best person to resolve the serious party crisis.

Miguel Angel Ramirez said the party will be in good hands with Argana. Marina Aquino de Ortiz said the Colorado Party could win every election if its members worked together.

Persio da Silva proposed giving the election the appropriate legal framework and reading Article 21 of the party regulations on election of authorities, but Enrique Riera motioned that the vote be nominal and verbal. The result of the vote was 31 in favor of Argana and one abstention (Mario Mallorquin). Eugenio Sanabria Cantero was absent.

The new president was applauded and he stood up and conveyed his thanks.

Waldino Ramon Lovera congratulated Argana and noted that he would fulfill his mission when he surrenders power to a successor elected through a direct ballot. Argana thanked the party members for his election and said that he would direct the party "with the firm promise and serene conviction that I want to be the president of all members of the Colorado Party." Argana added that he wanted to hand over the presidency to a person elected in direct elections, "hoping to be remembered as the president of unity." [passage omitted]

Peru

Electoral Court Releases Election Statistics

PY0604173990 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1552 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (AFP)—The National Electoral Court (JNE) on 5 April reported that almost 10,000,000 Peruvians have registered to vote on 8 April to choose a new president, 60 senators, and 180 deputies.

Here are the most important figures of the report:
Area: 1,285,215 square km
Territorial division: 12 regions, 24 departments, 183 provinces, and 1,772 districts in a single democratic Republic.
Population: 21,792,000
Number of voters: 9,923,062 (5,110,695 men, 4,812,367 women) in Peru and 80,000 to 87,000 abroad.
Number of voting stations: 52,155.
Right to vote: mandatory from 18 years of age.
Exemptions: active Armed Forces and military members.
Election time: 0800 (1200 GMT) to 1500 (1900 GMT).
Type of vote: universal, secret, with ballot slips.
Number of candidates: 3,487: nine of which are running for president, with 18 running mates for the first and second vice presidencies, 960 for the Senate, and 2,500 for the House.
Congress: 60 senators elected through nationwide vote, 180 deputies elected by the departments, and life Senators (former president Fernando Belaunde, and as of 28 July current President Alan Garcia).
Constitutional rules: if no candidate for president obtains more than 50 percent of the votes (including blank and invalidated votes), the two candidates with the highest number of votes will go to a runoff election in which the candidate with the simple majority will be the winner.
Government: the Peruvian Government is traditionally a presidential system. The president is empowered to appoint the head of the ministerial cabinet.
Most recent election (14 April 1985) results:

APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] obtained 46 percent of votes, with 32 senators and 107 deputies.
The United Left obtained 25 percent, with 15 senators and 48 deputies.
The Christian Popular Party obtained 12 percent, with seven senators and 12 deputies.
Popular Action obtained seven percent, with five senators and 10 deputies.
Fenatraca [National Front of Workers and Peasants] obtained one percent, with one senator and one deputy.
Independent sectors obtained 0.85 percent, with two deputies.

Presidential Candidate Fujimora on Popularity

PY0604193790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Alberto Fujimori, presidential candidate for Cambio 90 [Change 90], has said that the Fredemo [Democratic Front] will not win the election. Fujimori said that the people have already expressed their decision in the streets:

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] What surprises me is the rapid growth of people's support for my candidacy. We expected to be second [in the first round] and participate in a runoff. I am talking about a rating growth of about

three to four percent per day. That is explosive, irresistible, and geometric growth. We will be in the second round, that is if we do not win outright as some people have suggested in many rallies in towns such as Arequipa, Cusco, Puno, Huaraz, Chimbote, Piura, Chiclayo, and Casagrande. We are optimists.

[Reporter] The common people are now speaking of Fujimori for president. Did you ever consider that you would become such a phenomenon?

[Fujimori] I am not a phenomenon. I expect to become president. I am going to be president. I feel capable of conducting the country's business.

[Reporter] Are you confident of your strength?

[Fujimori] I am fully confident. The decision is in the hands of the voters because each citizen knows who is who in Peru. I think I have enough experience, and background, to inaugurate a real era of change in Peru.

[Reporter] Serious political analysts have said that [Lima Mayor] Ricardo Belmont—now that he has become an undisguised Fredemo supporter—has somehow divided the forces that support Mario Vargas Llosa.

[Fujimori] I do not want to say that there is a division of voting forces but I know I am attracting the votes of conscious citizens who feel and believe that there is need for a change in the country. I do not think the Fredemo will implement any changes because the Fredemo, after all, is only the sum of the Popular Action plus the PPC [Popular Christian Party], which is headed by a well-known intellectual, that is all.

Ricardo Belmont has made a series of comments in favor of Vargas Llosa and against me, but Ricardo must know that he does not have enough support to hurt me. The grassroots have denied and rejected his statements. I believe he is ill-advised because he has not done well in the few months that he has been in City Hall, in fact he is hurting the people.

Vargas Llosa Hopes To Form 'Liberal' Government

PY0804013290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 7 Apr (EFE)—Writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the presidential candidate for the Democratic Front (Fredemo), today stated that if he wins in the 8 April election he would like to a form a liberal government whose policy will "seek to combine" those of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In a televised interview given at midnight yesterday, shortly before the close of the official electoral campaign, Vargas Llosa praised the government of Felipe Gonzalez, which "has accomplished great achievements, such as the elimination of the Marxist component of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE)."

Vargas Llosa, who jumped into the political arena in 1987 to protest the nationalization of the Peruvian financial system announced in July of that year by President Alan Garcia, said: "I want to make Peru a modern, liberal society, because I am a liberal. I am not a conservative."

Vargas Llosa added that, if elected, "he will make high demands of himself." He emphasized that "politics generate terrible rivalries, but we will not indulge in intolerance."

Every opinion poll indicates that a runoff election is inevitable, because even if Vargas Llosa wins tomorrow, he will not obtain the absolute majority required for him to be elected.

Although he has now become a politician, Vargas Llosa says that "political life is dirty and very mediocre, and in my own Front there are very unfortunate mediocrities."

Vargas Llosa, who is the author of "The City and the Dogs," added: "It is true that Fredemo has exaggerated in its publicity campaign. This unfortunately has happened."

Analysts said that Vargas Llosa's approval rate dropped from 50 percent to 37 percent as a result of the excessive publicity for congressional candidates from Fredemo member parties. All that has caused him to lose his image as an independent candidate.

Vargas Llosa described the electoral campaign as "dirty." He said he had seen leaflets charging him with being "an atheist who would burn churches if he obtains power." Vargas Llosa said the attacks launched against him by the left and by the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), regarding the economic adjustment program he intends to implement if he wins in tomorrow's election, "were designed to distort our program and to terrorize the Peruvian people."

Vargas Llosa believes that a true revolution comes from "work, the law, and ideas, as well as from the culture of freedom." He criticized the fact that "some Peruvians have surrendered to pessimism" in the face of the serious socioeconomic crisis affecting the country.

He tacitly admitted the possibility of a runoff election by saying that he hopes the new electoral campaign "will be cleaner than the first one as far as creativity and electoral advertising are concerned."

Vargas Llosa recognized that "there are possibly old politicians within Fredemo who do not enjoy the people's confidence." Commenting on the future of the Peruvian left, which is divided between socialists and communists in this election, he predicted that the election may result in "a great renovation leading to ethical socialism."

"I am confident that victory will be mine on Sunday," Vargas Llosa said. He added: "From the beginning, I have clearly outlined my objectives and have put all my cards on the table."

According to opinion pollsters, the "crude sincerity" with which Vargas Llosa outlined his electoral program by announcing that his measures will have "a high social cost" is another factor that has undermined his presidential campaign.

Polls Predict Vargas Llosa-Fujimori Runoff

PY0604213890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1826 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (EFE)—According to the results of the four latest published polls, victory, in the first round of voting, for author Mario Vargas Llosa has been "definitely ruled out" due to the surprising drive of independent candidate Alberto Fujimori. Vargas Llosa will have to contest the presidency of Peru with Fujimori in a runoff election.

The four polls give Vargas Llosa, a candidate of the center-rightist Democratic Front (Fredemo), a following of between 35 and 37 percent of the votes but Peruvian law requires an absolute majority on the first round.

Fujimori, who is of Japanese descent, was unknown until two months ago, has no definite program, team, or ideology. He will reportedly obtain second place with close to 20 percent, and his popularity is increasing every day.

Fujimori, a 52-year old agronomist, managed to overtake the ruling party candidate Luis Alva Castro and the other two candidates of the divided Peruvian left, Alfonso Barrantes (socialist) and Henry Pease (communist).

The experts have predicted that the candidate of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) will receive between 15 and 17 percent of the votes, while the leaders of the Socialist Left (IS) and of United Left (IU, communist), will receive between seven and 10 percent each.

These predictions are based on results of vote intentions and polls at the national level released today to foreign reporters. The publication of poll results is forbidden in the interior of the country 15 days before the elections.

According to these polls, Vargas Llosa and Fujimori will contest, on an unspecified date, the Presidency in a runoff election, in which they admit the possible victory of the Japanese-descent candidate.

The experts attribute Vargas Llosa's sharp decline, after leading with 55 percent of the votes last January, to the fact that his independent image has been practically erased by the vigorous electoral campaign conducted by candidates of the center-rightist parties that make up the Fredemo.

According to the experts, Peruvian voters—55 percent of the overall Peruvian voters are independent—associate Vargas Llosa with "the failure" of the Popular Action (AP) - Popular Christian Party (PPC) government in the 1980-85 period.

Alfredo Torres of the Apoyo Institute said: "Fujimori has capitalized on the huge independent electoral force, while Vargas Llosa has damaged his public image during the electoral campaign because, whether he likes it or not, his image is now linked with politicians who have already served in the government."

Manuel Torrado, the director of the Datum Enterprise, stated that the disenchantment and frustration provoked by politicians among the people has affected all parties, including the ruling party."

Torrado, a sociologist and researcher, added: "Fujimori projects the image of honesty, work, and the success that Peruvians associate with Japan, the non-Latin American country they admire the most."

Manuel Saavedra, of the Peruvian Market Research Company (CPI), said that "Fujimori has substantially changed the electoral situation in the past three weeks and has brought confusion among researchers like us. We had to conduct new polls to overcome our doubts."

Torres added: "The APRA campaign against the shock (the shock economic policy announced by Vargas Llosa)—which was based on reports on the Argentine and Brazilian situation, various aspects of which the people cannot understand— has contributed to increasing acceptance of the independent candidate."

Augusto Algrede of the Peruvian Public Opinion (POP) said: "Although the economic adjustment program is necessary, Vargas Llosa should not have announced it as crudely and sincerely as he did. He has made mistakes. He has lost face as an independent candidate; he has shown political immaturity and unawareness of the daily problem of the ordinary people; and he has spent too much on publicity."

Experts have agreed that the 45-percent victory by Ricardo Belmont, a television personality and current mayor of Lima, in the November 1989 municipal election was a clear indication of the behavior of the Peruvian voters and their disenchantment with traditional parties.

"The phenomenon here is not Fujimori, but the Peruvian voters. No one knows anything about Fujimori, nor is anyone interested in knowing anything. Fujimori is the man, but it could have been any other, even Ezequiel Ataucusi."

Ataucusi, the leader of a sect known as the Evangelical Association of the Israeli Mission of the Universal Pact and who claims to be "God's envoy," is one of the presidential candidates.

Polling Sites Officially Open 1200 GMT

PA0804130590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1219 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE)—Voting in the Peruvian presidential and legislative elections officially began at 0800 (1200 GMT) today.

Approximately 10 million people will elect President Alan Garcia's successor, as well as two vice presidents, 60 senators, and 180 deputies from among 3,487 candidates.

The more than 52,000 polling places will be open for seven hours. However, they might remain open an additional one or two hours, as during last year's municipal elections.

Voting is obligatory in Peru for those between 18 and 70. The fine for not voting is the equivalent of $25 in Peruvian currency, a high figure in a country where, according to authorities, 70 percent of the population lives in poverty.

The electoral census shows 9,923,062 voters or 45 percent of the country's 22 million people. Nearly 40 percent of the voters are registered in the extended area of Lima, including the nearby port of Callao, which is the third electoral district, after Arequipa, the second most populated city of Peru.

Voting Extended Two Hours

PY0804200090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE)—Peruvian election authorities have decided to extend voting by two hours, until 1700 (2100 GMT), in view of the slow pace of the election process for president, senators, and deputies. The National Electoral Court (JNE) made the decision one hour before the scheduled closing time, which was 1500 (1900 GMT) and extended the deadline allowing voters seven hours to cast their votes.

A JNE spokesman told EFE that an important number of polling stations could not be opened on time due to various problems, including a lack of transportation, credentials, and missing election material.

One consequence of the extension of the deadline was the extension of the prohibition on releasing survey results and ballot projections.

'Radioprogramas' Survey Shows Fujimori Leading

PY0904040990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0302 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE)—According to a vote count survey conducted by "Radioprogramas de Peru," Alberto Fujimori has passed Mario Vargas Llosa in the Peruvian presidential elections with more than half of the polling stations reporting in.

According to data gathered by the station, with 53.1 percent of the votes counted, Fujimori, of the independent movement "Change 90," had received 31.5 percent of the votes. According to the same count, Vargas Llosa of the Democratic Front (Fredemo) had received 30.3 percent of the vote.

In a previous projection based on 32.3 percent of the electoral totals, Vargas Llosa was first with 32.9 percent and Fujimori second with 30.5 percent.

[Words indistinct] Luis Alva Castro of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) 16 percent, Henry Pease of the United Left (IU) communist coalition six percent, and Alfonso Barrantes of the Socialist Left (IS) 3.9 percent. The remainder of the votes were cast for other parties, left blank, or considered null.

Exit Poll Indicates Runoff

PY0804210990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1934 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE)—According to a limited survey conducted at polling sites, writer Mario Vargas Llosa and Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants and little known in political circles until a short time ago, will compete for the Presidency in a runoff election.

The survey, conducted by the "Support" Institute, seems to confirm that Vargas Llosa will not be able to achieve an absolute majority, which surveys just a month ago were indicating he would receive, to be elected president today.

After 35 percent of the "Support" survey "at the balloting stations" had been counted, the figures indicate that Vargas Llosa will receive 37.6 percent of the votes. This figure agrees with a trend that has been maintained throughout the totaling of the survey.

Fujimori, who until two weeks ago was not listed among the favorites, will get 25.5 percent of the total. These results confirm preelection surveys conducted in the final days leading up to election day.

According to "Support," Luis Alva Castro of the APRA will receive 12.6 percent; Henry Pease of the IU communist coalition, 6.5 percent; and Alfonso Barrantes of the Socialist Left, 3.6 percent.

These results were released just two hours before the closing of polling stations. The deadline, however, was extended two hours, from 1500 to 1700 (1900 to 2100 GMT), due to delays in the opening of many stations.

Survey Gives Fujimori Advantage

PY0804221790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2140 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE)—According to a nationwide survey among voters in today's election, independent

candidate Alberto Fujimori would be the next Peruvian president if a runoff election against Mario Vargas Llosa was held today.

The Peruvian Public Opinion Company (POP) has predicted that Fujimori would beat Vargas Llosa by 46.8 percent to 37.2 percent in the runoff election. A runoff election will be necessary because nationwide surveys indicate that neither of the two men will win an absolute majority today.

Fujimori, who is receiving between 26 and 28 percent of today's votes, would combine many of the votes for the ruling party and the left while Vargas Llosa would, barely, receive an extra two percent over the 35 percent he obtained today, according to two polling company surveys.

The runoff election will be held on the first or second Sunday of June after the National Electoral Court (JNE) announces the official results of today's vote in about three weeks.

Fujimori Holds Post-election News Conference

PY0904020090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2147 GMT 8 Apr 90

[News conference by presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori of the Change 90 movement with unidentified reporters in the Hotel Crillon in Lima—live]

[Text] [Fujimori] You have already heard several pollsters' projections on the presidential elections. I am very happy with the results because they reflect our own projections for this election. We are indeed in second place for the upcoming runoff election. We are optimistic about the runoff because our ideas were extremely well accepted by the population. We therefore have a great possibility of winning the Presidency. I am here to answer any questions.

[Reporter] If you win the elections, are you going to call for talks with the other political parties to run the country more efficiently?

[Fujimori] Regarding the upcoming runoff election, we are not going to talk with or reach any agreements with other political parties. We are going to leave the Peruvian people free to vote in a conscientious manner. It is not necessary for political bosses to tell the people for whom they should vote. The Peruvian people have enough civic and political maturity to decide for themselves who to vote for. I am sure that after the people compare the government platforms of the Fredemo [Democratic Front] and Change 90, they will choose Change 90.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] that you can defeat Mario Vargas Llosa in a runoff election?

[Fujimori] According to two projections, the difference between Fredemo and Change 90 is only six percent. We are sure that the people who voted for leftist candidates will not vote for Fredemo because of the polarization in the country, for which the political parties themselves are to blame. We, on the other hand, took a more conciliatory position, a position calling for national unity. This is why we are sure that we can get greater support than the Fredemo candidate.

[Reporter] Fredemo is reporting the possibility of fraud in this election.

[Fujimori] This is under the jurisdiction of the National Electoral Court. I am not aware of any fraud in the elections. I do regret that in the past few days, when political campaigning was prohibited, pamphlets against the Change 90 candidate were distributed. This should be condemned.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] That should be clarified by the National Electoral Court and not by Alberto Fujimori.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] I have already made it clear that I was never a member of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] and I am happy that the majority of the people did not believe all the offensive accusations made in the last few days and even in the last moments through pamphlets dropped from airplanes.

[Reporter] Will you be happy if APRA members vote for you?

[Fujimori] Let me reiterate that I am not going to make any pacts with APRA members, with leftists, or with any other party for the runoff elections. I am leaving it up to the people to decide by their own free will and on the basis of the technical plan that we are going to propose as part of our government platform.

[Reporter] Will it be a detailed plan?

[Fujimori] Of course it will be a detailed plan. I hope it can be presented through a debate, as I suggested to the Fredemo candidate one week ago.

[Reporter] Do you have the people to carry out your plan...?

[Reporter, interrupting] Are you going to get Japanese technology?

[Fujimori] In Peru we need new technology and Japanese technology is among the best in the world. We here in Peru are going to encourage the use of Japanese technology.

[Reporter] If you win the runoff election, are you going to establish a multiparty government? Are you going to call on all parties to participate in the government?

[Fujimori] The government officials of Change 90 will basically be technicians, regardless of their positions. We are going to choose our people on the basis of their

professional ability, their experience, and above all their honesty, efficiency, and defense of national interests.

[Reporter] For the next few weeks of the political campaign, are going to ask for aid from other governments, Japan for example, or from other sources in addition to your party?

[Fujimori] Not at all. Thank you for the question. I want to emphasize that we are going into the runoff elections absolutely free of political, economic, or party commitments. No one can demand anything from us or place conditions on us. We are truly independent. We are not only independent from political parties but also from any commitments. We have no commitments at all. We are completely independent.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] and why do you believe the people voted for you even when you are an independent?

[Fujimori] There are many reasons. I believe that in a news conference I cannot summarize the three words of the party slogan. The people no longer want speeches; they want work. The people no longer want manipulation or speculation, and we have proposed a government where technology will prevail. The people want an honest and objective government. This is what got into the people.

The people heard our message, our clear, concise, and direct proposals for each of our national problems. For example, when we talked about pacification, we looked at it from a social point of view. We cannot accept the fact that there are 7 million Peruvians living in misery. How can we think about fighting terrorism when we have 7 million people in misery? We have to fight misery to fight terrorism; of course, we also need military action.

[Reporter] Are you sure you can win the runoff election?

[Fujimori] I am optimistic by nature because I always plan ahead. For me, planning and intuition are extremely important in the political game. I am not a professional politician, but I have great intuition and I have shown that. I am not going to be so optimistic as to say that I consider myself the winner. There is a job ahead of us and we are going to carry it out with dedication and great detail.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] you are not going to form a pact with any political party for the runoff election. Are you expecting to get votes from the United Left and the APRA?

[Fujimori] We are not going to make any pacts with any political parties.

[Reporter] But are you expecting to get their votes?

[Fujimori] I leave that up to the free will of the people. I do not know if the people belong to the APRA or the United Left. What I really expect is to get the votes of the people who are not happy with Fredemo.

[Reporter] What are your plans at this point for the economic crisis, terrorism, and immorality?

[Fujimori] I believe that I need more time to give a good answer to that question, and hope to do so soon. As for terrorism, I have already talked about the main cause: misery and extreme poverty.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] the Peruvian foreign debt?

[Fujimori] No, it is Peru who will have to pay the foreign debt and has a commitment to pay it. We in Change 90 are going to honor that commitment. Naturally, we are going to ask for the support of many friendly countries, including Japan. Japan has offered its support to our country through several candidates and many official representatives.

[Reporter] Did you receive an offer?

[Fujimori] Why would Alberto Fujimori not get an offer?

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] I cannot commit any government.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] Someone over there is asking a question.

[Reporter] How will you deal with the drug trafficking problem? I am asking this question on the behalf of Colombian reporters. How do you plan to solve the drug trafficking problem?

[Fujimori] Let me answer another reporter's question first. My cabinet would be made up of specialists, technicians who know their fields well, but they will be advised by experts and perhaps by some politicians. The politicians will only be advisers. The cabinet will basically be made up of technicians. We will receive advice on matters of administration and strategy. But decisions will be made on the basis of defending national interests.

As for drug trafficking, I have already explained the serious problem in this country. There are 300,000 hectares of coca crops, especially in (Ceja de Senda). More than one-third of that land is in the Laderas zone. Over the past few years an effort has been made to replace coca with other products. This effort has failed. The replacement and eradication program eliminated 3,000 hectares of coca but, on the other hand, led to an 100,000-hectare increase in coca planting in other areas. In other words, the replacement and eradication program did not work. The violent eradication program has led farmers [words indistinct].

Our goal is to get the 700,000 to 800,000 farmers to return to legal farming activities. We are not going to achieve this suddenly. We are realistic—and we have said this publicly—and this is not possible in a short time. A full strategy, a gradual plan, is necessary. But for the time being there is a general guideline, an important

one, and this guideline comes out of what was achieved in your country at the Cartagena meeting. Steps should be taken in that direction.

[Reporter] What about the economic aspect?

[Fujimori] Regarding the economic situation, you should know the two aspects of the crisis. One is recession and the other is hyperinflation. We are against implementing a shock treatment because it would have a recessive effect on our economy and especially because it would further erode the purchasing power of the people. Our position is to reactivate production in the export sector, especially in the unproductive sectors. The sectors to which I am referring are: small and medium-size mining, fishing, medium and large-size textile industries, and agricultural production. Reactivation here would save foreign currency.

[Reporter] [question indistinct] shock treatment proposed by Vargas Llosa?

[Fujimori] He will have to answer that. I do not want to refer to Mario Vargas Llosa. Without a doubt, the presence of an independent group will have a strong impact on the national political scene because it is making its first appearance with a force which the traditional political forces did not expect. This is the important aspect of our participation. I believe that with this impact we will be able to change the direction and the political leadership of our country.

[Reporter] What plans and steps will Change 90 make for the runoff election?

[Fujimori] First, we will have to answer all the media's questions, especially from the international press. We expect to hold a news conference in the next few days to answer more questions.

[Reporter] Do you believe that there is a possibility for a national agreement, a government of national agreement?

[Fujimori] We have not been talking to political parties but to all the people of various political leanings.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] greater support from businessmen [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] According to projections, we have been able to achieve a better balance in Congress because the powerful businessman will not be the only representatives there. [words indistinct] great progress is already being made in Congress.

[Reporter] Will you order the printing of a new currency to replace the inti?

[Fujimori] We believe there are psychological expectations regarding the hyperinflationary process. We believe that a change of government, a change at the Central Bank, and a change in currency can significantly reduce the hyperinflationary rate. One of our concrete proposals, therefore, is to change the currency.

[Reporter] What about Peruvian relations with the United States?

[Fujimori] We will maintain cordial relations with all countries of the world. In my capacity as president of the National Rectors Assembly I had an opportunity to work on various projects and to strengthen our links—of course, within the proper scope—with other countries, particularly the United States.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] I have already explained that.

[Reporter] What can you say about job security?

[Fujimori] We have anticipated that in our program. We will defend job security but we will ask labor to understand that productivity is important. We will tell the business sector that there is no conflict between job security and productivity. Many countries have experienced job security and stability. I am an optimist. We will defend job stability.

[Reporter] You have two businessmen with you, Mr. Fujimori.

[Fujimori] That is correct. I believe private initiative is very important for the development and recovery of the country. I have chosen them because they represent a very important sector. Engineer Maximo San Roman Caceres is president of the National Federation of Peruvian Small Industry. You all know that small businesses make up a large and important sector of our economy, maybe up to 50 percent. We have told our people that San Roman will defend that sector. I have to my left a very distinguished businessman, known to all, not only to the entrepreneurial sector but also to labor. He is Julian Bustamante Cabello, a large-scale industrialist. He is on our ticket, and he reinvests in the country. He is a nationalist businessman.

[Reporter] Are you going to negotiate or talk with the Shining Path?

[Fujimori] I am going to be short in answering that. We are not going to negotiate with the Shining Path. We do not think it is the correct path. The Shining Path is on the wrong path.

[Reporter] How will you deal with terrorism?

[Fujimori] There are two fronts. One of them has to do with the misery, hunger, and long-lasting poverty that afflicts our population, creating social injustice and unrest, a climate conducive even to a rebellion of the masses. We have to fight this scourge. We have to reestablish social justice so that each Peruvian may at least have the opportunity and the minimum means to survive with adequate nourishment. We have to fight poverty and hunger. Second, the Armed Forces should

play a role, but we will ask them to fight subversion also using the weapons of development, building roads and irrigation channels in areas where subversion is present.

[Reporter] Will you continue the projects started by this government?

[Fujimori] We will continue some of the projects initiated by this administration. I have already said that publicly. We will continue the Chabimochic project and the irrigation of the (Cach) River. What matters is the national interest.

[reporter] What about the electric train?

[Fujimori] We will not abandon the electric train. We have already made a large investment in that area. We have committed 340 million [currency not specified] of German credit there. We have no alternative but to continue and finish it. We must finish it even if it is not as efficient as we expected. Thank you, gentlemen.

Vargas Llosa Proposes Talks With Fujimori

PY0904011290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2234 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Statement by Democratic Front presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa to supporters and unidentified reporters at the Sheraton Hotel in Lima—live]

[Text] [Vargas Llosa] I want to thank the Peruvian people for giving me their majority support. This confirms the result of the municipal elections: The Democratic Front [Fredemo] is the number one political force in the country. I want to congratulate Engineer Alberto Fujimori for his second-place finish and for the significant support he has received from a very important sector of the Peruvian people.

We can draw important conclusions from the initial results of the election. First is the overwhelming defeat of all the forces representing collectivist and statist ideologies. There has been a dramatic fall in the support for socialism and communism and a very severe punishment for the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] after these five catastrophic years of government. The clear conclusion is that two-thirds of Peruvian voters unmistakably support the ideas of change, renewal, and modernity.

We can say without fear that the country's political culture has deeply changed with this election and that a majority of Peruvians have unmistakably told the world that they reject collectivism and statism and that they want to consolidate the democratic system through a liberalization of the economy and a quick incorporation of the country into the international community.

I think this is the key issue in the voting. This is how we must read the voters' message.

It is very important for Engineer Alberto Fujimori and myself to draw these patriotic conclusions from the election results. The Peruvian people do not want socialistic formulas. They are rejecting the socialist populism of past years; they have clearly rejected those options.

As far as I know, Fujimori's program—and I have only a general idea of it—is very similar, although with somewhat less radical characteristics, to the proposal for which I asked the Peruvian people to vote. It is very clear that the Peruvian people want a solution like we have proposed, although less radical and more moderate that what I thought was necessary for the country.

I think Fujimori and I must behave patriotically and put the country's interests ahead of any personal, party, or group interest. We must talk immediately, he and I, without any need to.... [applause, crowd shouts "Mario for president"] Engineer Fujimori and I must talk immediately, without any need for negotiators, to find a quick formula to spare Peru the inconvenience of a runoff election. [applause]

We should have a frank, clear, and decent talk without back-room dealings or conditions to establish a needed majority and allow the next government to begin working, as soon as possible, on the very grave crisis the country is going through. We need to return to the world, to open doors to the reintegration of our country into the world, and to now begin work on the credits and support we need to put our country back on its feet.

I want to invite Engineer Fujimori—with the Peruvian people, who have once again demonstrated their support for the democratic system, as witnesses—to talk, wherever or whenever he wants, to quickly arrive at an agreement to establish, or make possible, a reasonable and democratic formula to implement, what is to me, the unmistakable message of most Peruvians. [applause, crowd shouts "Mario for president"].

I want to thank all the Peruvians who have supported me with their votes. I am especially grateful to [Lima mayor] Ricardo Belmont, who spontaneously and disinterestedly decided to support my candidacy because he thought it was his duty to do so.

I want to thank the large numbers of anonymous Peruvians, the thousands, dozens, and hundreds of thousands of Peruvians who have helped me over the past two years in promoting the ideas of economic freedom, private enterprise, and the opening of the economy to the world. I want to simply thank all those who helped me give our democratic system a new dynamism and quality. Beyond any electoral results, this is Fredemo's greatest contribution to the Peruvian political scene.

I want to tell all of you nameless and faceless friends, from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much. [applause]

[Reporter, in French] Regarding the dialogue with Engineer Fujimori you have just mentioned, if he accepts, what will you offer him or talk with him about?

[Vargas Llosa, in French] I am sure that Mr. Fujimori and I can arrive at a solution to form an operational government. We can talk about any subject in that regard.

Shining Path 'Armed Stoppage' Affects 3 Regions

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[Text] Lima, 7 Apr (EFE)—The "Shining Path" terrorist organization is keeping three Peruvian cities under pressure with three "armed stoppages"—strikes enforced by death threats—that began today in an effort to force a boycott of tomorrow's general elections.

Ayacucho, the capital of the southern department of Ayacucho, is under a state of military emergency. There is neither electricity nor water in the city, and every activity has been suspended as a result of the three-day "armed stoppage" called as of today. There is no transportation either, stores are closed, and the streeets are patrolled by the Army and Military Police. Roads linking Ayacucho with the departmental provinces of Cangallado and La Mar were blocked by Shining Path terrorists with stones and tree trunks. The 55-km road linking Ayacucho with the city of Huanta is guarded by 4,000 members of the "Peasant Patrols," which are in opposition to the "Shining Path." There are a few vans on the road, under military surveillance. "Shining Path" terrorists have destroyed a suspension bridge linking Ayacucho with the province of Julcamarca, thus forcing that region into isolation.

Candidates for deputy from Ayacucho Department for the ruling APRA (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance), the Vargas Llosa-led Democratic Front (Fredemo), and the United Left, as well as foreign and local journalists, who will be covering the election in that area, are all lodged in a Ayacucho hotel. "Shining Path" has threatened to blow up the hotel, which is heavily guarded by the police.

Meanwhile, the people of Ayacucho are checking the voter lists to find out where each voter will cast their vote tomorrow.

The Shining Path also called for an "armed stoppage" from today until Monday [9 April] in Huaraz, capital of Ancash Department, bordering Lima Department to the north. The city was paralyzed and in the dark following the destruction of a high-tension electrial tower six km from the city. As the result of that attack, five provinces in Ancash were left without electricity.

The Shining Path terrorists hurled explosives at a market in Huaraz, injuring 15 people. The Huaraz-Lima road was blocked for 15 hours when Shining Path guerrillas set two trucks loaded with minerals on fire. Ancash Department lies outside the area under the state of emergency that encompasses half of Peru, including the metropolitan Lima area.

Huancayo, 415 km southeast of Lima, is completely paralyzed by the Shining Path's "armed stoppage." All activities—banks, commerce, markets, public transportation—have been suspended. Since Friday there have been eight bombings of public and private facilities. A car was destroyed by a bomb. The city's electricity supply has been cut, following the destruction of three high-tension electrial towers. Also affected was the electricity supply for the entire Mantaro River Valley, where the country's largest hydroelectric plant is located. This plant supplies 80 percent of Peru's electricity.

Since last year, Shining Path terrorists have been extending their activities from the Department of Ayacucho to the strategic Department of Junin, bordering the Department of Lima. Junin provides most of Lima's food.